



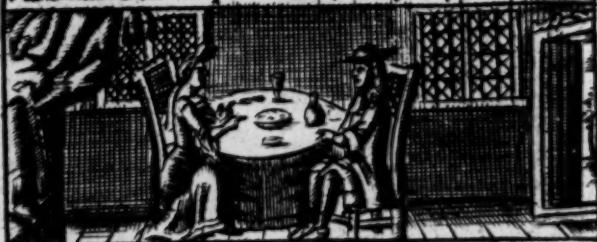
MS Phale & Company Enter Cave they meet a Solitary



M Delegaard Returns back MS Phale Receives a letter.



MS Phale Examines Footman & broy's Letter from her Brother



MPonfin Gives his Mother acc^t of MS Phale's Rescue.



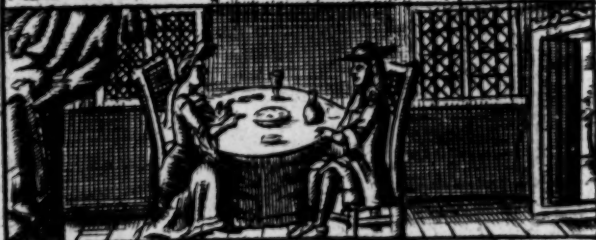
M^s Phale & Company Enter Cave they meet a Solitary



M^s Delegaard Returns back M^s Phale Receives a letter.



M^s Phale Examines Footman & broy^d Lee from her Dress.



M^s Ponfin Gives his Mother acc^t of M^s Phale's Rescue.

POOR ROBIN'S
JESTS:

O R,
The Compleat Jester.

Being
A Collection of several Jests not
heretofore published.

Now newly composed and written
By that well-known Gentleman, *Poor Robin*, Knight of the burnt Island, and well-
willer to the Mathematicks.

Together with the true and lively
Effigies of the said Author.

Licensed Feb. 2. 1666. *Roger L'Estrange*.

L O N D O N:
Printed for Francis Kirkman and
Richard Head.

-1666-

TO THE
212

The [illegible] [illegible]



How many [illegible] and [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
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To the Intelligible Reader.

DId not Custom claim an Epistle, I might have saved my self this labour of writing one; and yet let me tell thee, that good Wine may be sold within, although there hangs no Bush at the door. Now thou dost expect (I suppose) that I should say something of these Jest; if I should tell thee that they were all good, I think thou wouldst not believe me; and if thou shouldst say they were all bad, I profess I should not believe thee. I suppose they are not like to the women in the World, because here is more good ones then bad ones; whereas amongst them,

A 2 there

To the Intelligible Reader.

there is more bad then good : if after the perusal of them thou finde fault, reflect upon thy self, whether thou hast not more Vices then Vertues within thee, and forbear to censure too rigidly, lest a wiser head then thy own commending them, thou for thy pains be accounted a fool.

But me thinks I hear some long-ear'd fellow to say that the most of these are but Collections, the Works of other men ; and therefore the less to be regarded : why *Apes-face*, let me ask thee this Question ; Is the Honey the worse, because the Bee sucks it out of many flowers ? or is the Spiders Web the more to be praised, because it is extracted out of her own Bowels ? Wilt thou say the Taylor did not make the Garment, because the Cloath it was made of, was weaved by the Weaver ? 'Tis true, many of these Jestes were delivered before by others ; but with so much prolixity, and in such a

rough

To the Intelligible Reader.

rough stile, as was both tedious and unpleasant to the Reader ; but now they are so ordered, that the worst of them all may pass with approbation, if thou doest not marre their sence, by thy ill-favour'd reading of them ; which if thou shouldest do in my hearing, I profess, as I am a true man, an honest man, and no Taylor, I should be very angry with thee for thy labour.

And now let me tell thee, that besides the old, here is a great many new ones ; yea, spick and span new, scattered amongst the others (like Plumbs in a Cake) to make the old ones to relish the better : and indeed Jestes are like Cakes, which should have in them the sweet *Plumbs* of pleasant language, *spiced* with delight, and *sugered* with pleasure ; but the nearest resemblance is, that Jestes and Cakes are both of them best when they are broken.

Now if thou likest them, *so* ; if thou

To the Intelligible Reader.

dislike them, then *so, so* : but if thy teeth stand like an old Park-pale, here one rotten, and there one out ; forbear to read them before thy Sweet-heart, lest when thou grinnest, thou discover so much, as to help thee, thou be forced to flee to the old Proverb for refuge, *That those whose teeth are out kiss softly.*

Much more might be said, if there were a necessity for it ; but if thou beest not *wise*, then thou art *otherwise* ; now if thou beest *wise*, then a word to the wise is sufficient ; and if beest *otherwise*, all the words that I can use, will not make thee a wise man.

Next, a word or two to the women, and then I will conclude : Two sorts of the Female Sex would I advise by all means not to read this Book ; *viz.* those women that have made their Husbands Cuckolds, and those that paint their faces. For the first sort, those women that wear Cork-shoes, which

To the Intelligible Reader.

which makes them to be light-heel'd, let them not dare to touch it, lest they meet with some passages in it, which may make them to blush as red, as if they had been drinking of burnt-Claret; when they consider with themselves, that by their doing, and being done, their Husbands, who (had they had honest Wives) might have lived and dyed handsome, fine, smooth-foreheaded men, now by these wagtails are metamorphos'd into such kinde of Creatures, as Bulls, Oxen, Stags, Rams, Goats, Humble-bees and Snayles.

Then for those that paint their faces, if they should laugh themselves into an extraordinary Sweat, it might chance to spoil their complexions, by reason of their *Fucus* melting off; let them therefore forbear, *forewarn'd, forewarn'd*: for all other sorts of women, let them read and welcome, laugh till they be-

To the Intelligible Readers.

piss themselves, it is but washing
their Smocks again; so fall too,
and much good may it do you.

Yours in all civil Mirth,

POOR ROBIN.

Will.



*Will. Summers in Commendation
of this Book.*

I *Who did live i'th' days of eighth King Harry
(That in his time six several wives did
marry,)
And oft did make him laugh his belly full
With Jests I put upon Cardinal Wol-
sey, do now appear again in print
For this same Book, to tell you what is in't ;
'Tis with a medley of such quaint Jests stor'd,
The best that any Age did yet afford :
For other Commendations it don't need them ;
They're good upon my word, and therefore read
(them.*

Scoggin on the Book.

I *Hitherto have lived in great fame, (name,
But these quaint Jests will quite eclipse my
And put me down (so far they do excel)
Even as a Bucket is put down a Well : (dry,
For those whose Wits are dull, whose brains are
Here is at least a twelve-months fresh supply.
Me thinks I see when Tom and Will doth read
them,
How all the Company with attention heed them ;
Such*

Such store of mirth it breeds when they sit
quaffing, (laughing.
That Jenny breaks her twatling-strings with
My Commendations of them in this Verse,
Is like my greazing the fat Sow o'th' Ar---
For they are stor'd with so much mirth & sport,
The longest Verse doth in their praise come short.

Dick Tarlton on the Compleat Jester.

NEXT to Will Summers, and my Brother
Scoggin,

Let me amongst the rest put my dry bob in ;
For you will say there were some reason for't,
If you had seen me in Queen Besses Court,
Where I did live in great renown and bravery,
And pleas'd most people with my harmles kna---

But some will say, what needeth all this clatter?
Here's nothing hath been spoken to the matter.
'Tis true indeed, the thoughts of my past glory
Had made me almost quite forget my story ;
Which was (if I am not therein mistook)
To give my approbation of this Book :
All I shall say, is, those that discommend it,
Let them (if they can do the same) come mend it.

Pasquil upon the following Jests.

MY being was i'th' days of Mother Bunch,
Who sold good Liquar, Sider, Ale & Punch,
Metbeglin,

Metheglin, Perry, Vsquebab and Coffee,
As good as ere was drunk by Persian Sophy ;
And sometimes Brandy, Chocolet, Stepony,
Which thither did invite many a Crouey ;
Where whilst they sat a drinking of their Ale,
Each man by turns did tell a merry tale ;
Which I had printed in one Book for sport too,
Neither in Twelves, nor Octo, but in Quarto :
That Book of mine and if you do resort to,
'Twill make you laugh, and smile, and if not fart
But yet I must confess, I can't deny it, (too :
This following Book (unless I should bely it)
Surpasses mine in so many degrees,
As Water is by Wine, or Chalk by Cheese.

Long-Meg of Westminster on
the Book.

Amongst the men, next give a woman place too,
Who once did live in great renown and grace.
And for being tall, and kept a filthy stir, (too ;
Men stiled me Long-Meg of Westminster.
Many mad pranks I plaid, and many a gam-
ble,
Whilst in this lower Orbe I had my ramble ;
For which my name grew great, and thundred so,
Lowder then Cannon-shot, or Bell of Bow.
And be it known unto all Christian people,
It mounted higher far then is Pauls-steeple :
That

That since the days Eve woo'd our father A-
dam,

Was never known a stouter strapping Madam.

But now I fear as sure as Eggs are Eggs too,

And that mens Bodies are born by their Legs too ;

These Jestes puts down my fame, have me out-
stripped, (whipped.

As School-boys puts down hose when they are

Hobson, the merry Londoner, in praise
of this Book.

FOrth from the hollow Caverns of old Tellus,
I come to spend my breath, like winde from
Bellows,

To tell the world this Book it hath no fellows ;

Read it, 'twill cure the jealous of the Yellows,

The rich of Pride, the sad of Melancholy,

The poor of Spleen, the simple-man of folly :

It is the onely Universal Doctor, (her.

'Twill cure thee of the P--- if thou hast knockt

There's no disease of care, nor yet of grief too,

But reading this, it gives the minde relief too :

Then if for to be cur'd, thy minde be willing,

Pull out thy purse, the price is but a shilling.

Archy in praise of this Book.

AMongst the train of nimble wits next march I,
King Charles the Martyrs Jester, famous
Archy : Valiant

Valiant I was, as was french Knight de Amadis,
And full of mirth, as Egge-shell with meat
cramb'd is;

And which o'th' matter sets a higher rate too,
Jested my self into a good Estate too.

Now since my censure must pass on this Book,
I durst avouch, if that thereupon you look,
You'll finde rare jocund tales, both new & old too,
By several men, and at several times told too.
For what Taylor of Coriats works once utter'd,
Th'were good as rosted Cheese, or Fish that's
butter'd;

Might in a better sence of these be taken,
They're good as powder'd Beef, or Eggs & Bacon.

Poor Robin on himself.

L Astly, for to bring up the Rear
In my own person I appear,
To make it known unto the world
What falshoods have on me been hurl'd:
One says I'm this, another that,
And most do prate they know not what:
For like to Geese in mud that paddle,
Each broods his Eggs, and all prove addle.

One says that I a Parson am,
He heard me Preach, and knows my name;
And if that lyes be true, then he
Has bit the truth assuredly;

But

But if that it be otherwise,
Then truth is truth, and he tells lyes.

Another in me a Lawyer sees,
That in false case I ne'er took fees;
But sure the mans in's judgement's blind,
For why, such Lawyers few can finde.

Another doth affirm me for
A Doctor, or a Quacksalver,
(Or if you will a Mountebank;
Where Jack Pudding on Stage is crank)
And that I do cure each disease,
Lost Maiden-heads, or what you please:
But were I Doctor, I'd be trying
To cure that party of his lying.

Another says it is a Knight
Poor Robin's Almanack does write:
Another says it is a Squire;
And I say each of them's a liar.

One did report I was a Vulcan;
Because (they say) I love a full Can:
Another in his words did vary,
Said I was an Apothecary.
A third, whose brains were something adler,
Aver'd for truth I was a Sadler.
A fourth hath an Opinion newer,
That I love Beer, and am a Brewer:
But he had been a truer hinter,
That I love Wine, and am a Vintner:

For though in trade from truth they vary,
I must confess I love Canary.

Now I have told you what I am not,
But what I am, to tell I cannot;
For he who can himself conjecture,
Is wiser then our late Protector,
Who had forgot he was a Brewer,
And could above him none indure:
Nor think I be could prophecy,
When dead, his head should mount so high;
Or that his Trunk with two or's fellows
Should buried be under the Gallows.

But they who do desire to know me,
If they such love or kindness owe me,
Come to Limehouse neer to Dicks-shore,
A mile from Aldgate, if not more;
Neer unto Signs of the White Lyon,
Hard by's a Shop, if you cast eye on:
may be found without all doubt,
Always within, if not gone out.
There do I sit some certain hours,
Contemplating the starry powers:
And from that place as may be guest,
Brought up Will Summers and the rest
From Elyzium, or from Limbo,
To make Verse like rime in Crambo;
A commendation of this Book,
As you may read, if there you look.

For

Now

Now I imagine in all reason
I've writ enough at this same season :
And those who like not this Epistle,
Lay the book down, and go whistle.

P. R. p

WRitten at Lime-house neer Dick
shore,
The day o' th' month, five and a score :
The month April, th' hour Eleven,
Tear Sixteen Hundred Sixty Seven.

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R. POOR ROBIN'S JESTS:

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O R,

The compleat Jester.

The Lady and Tenant.

Po **A** Lady inviting some of her Tenants to Dinner at a Christmas, as soon as Grace was said fell to commending her meat; saying, there was a Sir-loyn of Beef, the Ox whereof cost ten pounds, and a Capon that cost half a Crown, &c. A poor man sitting at the lower end of the Table, hearing her discourse, fell straightways upon the Capon, before the others were past their roast Beef: the Lady seeing that, called to him, saying, My friend, eat some of that roast
B Beef.

2 Poor Robin's Jests : or,

Beef. No Madam (said he) an Ox of ten pounds is too dear meat for me, a Capon of half a Crown will serve my turn well enough, I thank you.

Another.

THe same Lady carving a wing of a most dainty Bird to another of her Guests, told him that those sorts of Birds were worth no less then five pounds a dozen: To whom the fellow said, If you please Madam, I will content my self with Beef or Pork, and give me my share of those Birds in money.

Will. Summers and Cardinal Woolsey.

Will. Summers that was first Cardinal Woolsey's Fool, hearing that his Master was like to be Pope, came running to the Cardinal, and with great expressions of joy, told him what he had heard: Why art thou so over-joy'd at this news, said Woolsey to his Fool? Marry quoth Will, because that I hope when you are Pope, you will do as St. Peter did when he was Pope. What was that, said the Cardinal? Why St. Peter, when he was Pope he brought in Lent, and all the Fastings days because his Father and Brothers were Fishermen; and I hope when you are Pope, you will

The Compleat Jester.

3

put them all down, because your Father and Brothers were Butchers.

King Henry the Eighth.

King Henry the Eighth having beheaded two or three of his Wives, and desirous still of more change, sent a Messenger into Germany, to treat with a very honourable Lady there in way of Marriage; she that had heard how he had served other of his Wives before, returned this answer by the Messenger, *That to be his Queen she would willingly venture her body, but she was very loath to venture her head.*

This Scholar deserv'd Wine.

A Young and pregnant Scholar who was Nephew to an Arch-bishop of Canterbury; the Bishop sent him from his own Table a Dish of Fish, and bad that he should make a pair of Verses *ex tempore* upon that subject; which the Scholar presently did in this manner:

*Mittitur in disco mibi piscis ab Archiepisco
Po non ponatur, quia porus non mibi datur.*

The Arch-bishop, and they that were at Table with him, laughed heartily at the

4 *Poor Robin's Jests : or,*
conceit ; but one Gentleman who under-
stood not Latine, wisht it had been in Eng-
lish, that he might have laught with them :
whereupon the paper was sent back to the
Scholar, that he should turn it into Eng-
lish, which he did thus :

*There was sent me fish, in a dish, from the Arch-
bish-
Hop was not here, because he sent no beer.*

An impertinent Host.

AN Host (a small Wit) had bargain'd
with an humorous Painter for the
new drawing of his Sign, which was to be
that of St. George and the Dragon ; and
most earnestly and often, even to the inter-
ruption of his work, importuned and in-
treated him to have an especial care, that
he drew St. George with a most killing
Countenance (to the life) and ever and a-
non renewing his desire, the cholerick
Painter looked very sternly upon him, and
taking off his Pencil from the frame, said
*Mine Host, be quiet, and leave your prating,
or (the Devil take my wife) if I do not make
the Dragon kill St. George.*

The Cut-purse and Watch.

A Company of Gentlemen being drinking together in an Ale-house, a bold Cut-purse intruded himself into their company: at last one of the Gentlemen mist his Watch; and knowing he had it when he came into the room, a Constable was straight sent for, where by mutual consent it was agreed amongst them, that all the Company there present should be searched for it; amongst which was this Cut-purse, but he had before conveyed it into such a secret place in his hose, that nothing was found about him; but long he had not sat there, when the Watch which had a Larum in it, rang such a peal, as gave notice to them all who was the Thief; which he seeing, gave the Gentleman his Watch again, saying, *What ill luck had I to escape the Constable, and be taken by the Watch?*

The Gallant Cut-purse.

A Nother Cut-purse being in a very gentle habit, or as we ordinarily say, as fine as a Lord, had in a Crowd nipt the Bung of a Country-man, and taken away all his mony; which the Country-man perceived well enough, but seeing him so brave, durst

B 3

not

6 Poor Robin's Jest: or,

not charge him with it. Soon after, his hand was taken in another mans Pocket, and a cry being made of a *Cut-purse*, a *Cut-purse*, he was thereupon hurried away by the multitude before a Justice of the Peace, with whom the Country-man went along for company; where when the accuser had done his tale, the Country-man stepped up before the Justice, and told him, That his worship (meaning the Thief) had also stolen away his purse. *Marry*, said the Justice, *and I'll tell ye friend, we shall make so bold to hang his worship for the same.*

One cured of his money.

ONe who had gotten a pain in his limbs rid down to the Bath to be cured of the same; but being come thither, he chanced to light into some drunken company, where first he spent all his money, afterwards sold his Horse, and spent that: upon his return he told some of his friends that he was perfectly cured, *For though he rode down to the Bath on Horse-back, yet he came up again from thence on foot.*

Sir Harry Vane.

Sir Harry Vane Junior having made Speech in the long-Parliament, about

the beginning thereof; when he had done, Sir Arthur Hazetrig stept up and said, *Well Gentlemen, if young Sir Harry Vane lives till he be old---* and breaking off there abruptly, one said, Sir Arthur, and what then? then (said he) *he will be old Sir Harry Vane.*

The Jesuite and Fryar.

A Jesuite preaching at the great Church in Padua, towards the end of his Sermon, he fell into a large commendation of the Order of the Jesuites, extolling it above all the religious Orders that then were, or ever had been in the world, giving God thanks, that he had the happiness to be of that Order; and in the close of his discourse, he told his Auditory that he would acquaint them with a Vision which he had lately seen: The other night (said he) I dreamed that I was in Hell, where me thought I saw Popes, Emperours, Kings, Queens, Cardinals, Bishops, Abbots, Monks, Fryars, and some of all sorts of men both Ecclesiastical and secular, but not one Jesuite amongst them all; which made me to bless God that ever I was born to be of so blessed a Society; which though it had sent so many thousands of that holy Order to the Grave, yet never any of them went

to Hell; and so he concluded his Sermon with a fresh Encomium of the Society of Jesuits. The next Sunday after, a Dominican Fryar preached in the same Church, and he also, towards the end of his Sermon fell upon the high praises of the Order of the Jesuits; repeating much of the Jesuits Sermon the day before, and bewayling himself that it was not his fortune to be of that holy Order, whereof none ever went to Hell, as the Reverend Father had told them the day before; at last he told the people, that he also had seen a Vision, and dreamed likewise one night that he was in Hell, where he saw Popes, Emperours, Kings, Cardinals, and all sorts of Orders, as the Jesuit had notably shewed them the day before; but not a Jesuite (said the Fryar) could be seen amongst them all: then thought I to my self, O what a blessed Order is this, that there should not be a Jesuit there! and still I cast my eyes all over Hell, wishing my self had been a Jesuit and not a Dominican, to see not one piece of that Order there: At last me thought I beckoned a little Devil to me, and askt softly in his ear, whether there were any Jesuits in that place or no? He answered, That there were none there, but that they were kept in

in a Hell by themselves, which is a great room under this, where (said the little Devil) there be abundance of them; and they come hither so fast, that my Master *Lucifer* scarce knows were to bestow them; and besides, they are so unruly, that if they were not kept by themselves, every body would be soon weary of this place: adding withal, that his Master durst not let them have any Gun-powder, for fear they should blow up Hell it self.

Three Wishes produced but a Ladle.

A Poor Country-man had so spent his time in true and honest pains, contented and not murmuring, that Fortune seemed to smile upon him, as oft as he came to worship at her Temple, whither he oft resorted; the gracious looks of the Goddess encouraged him to ask something more then before he used; and yet considering with himself, that too bold a Votary might be repulled, he modestly bounded his request with this suit, that her goodness would confer three wishes upon him, which from the Oracle was answered, *Ratified, wish, and be happy.* The joyful man acquainted his Wife straight, who having been the constant companion of his Labours,
was

was to meet share in his good fortunes; and desired of her Husband that one of those wishes might be left to her disposal. The good old man willing to gratifie her, granted her request: so to the Fair they came, whither they were bound, and the woman casting her eyes round about, to see what she should make the choice of her wish, at last (remembering what she wanted at home) spied a handsome wooden Ladle, which she forthwith wished for, and as soon the thing was in her hand; which her Husband seeing, and impatient at the miscarriage of the first wish, wroth with his Wife for her simplicity, wished the Ladle in her Breech, which out of hand was instantly there. But the poor woman (like a Fly with a straw in the same place) was so tormented, besides the shame, that she desired her Husband, that as he ever hop'd to partake of the delights of the opposite place, he would remove this impediment: to which the Unfortunate man condescended, and in charity to his Wife, wished it out again: So the three wishes went in and out with the Ladle.

A providential Father.

There was a Gentleman who was very discreet, and searching into the Natures and dispositions of his Family, and finding amongst his Daughters; that one, and one of the least and youngest, was ripest, and more requiring then the rest; very providentially provided her a Husband. The Virgin over-joy'd that her good hour was come, could not contain and be content that the Servants should invite the Guests, but her self would needs speak to some of especial familiarity with her, unwilling any should forestall the news to those, whom she wish'd in the same happy condition with her self; which when she had done to her play-fellows, (for she was not well wean'd from that society) they wonder'd, and said, (good Lady!) Mrs. *Dorothy*, how comes it to pass that you are so forward, and leap over your Sisters heads? we should never have believ'd it, but from your own sweet lips. Truly (said she, simpering, and with her Handkerchief at her mouth) it were presumptuously done, but that my Father, who knows me of an Egg, gave very good reason for it, for he said, (I know not what he meant by it) *That some Eggs would hatch*
in

12 *Poor Robin's Jest: or,*
in an Oven, and that in hot weather things
w'ont keep without salt.

The Vintners Boy.

TWO Gentlemen being drinking in a Tavern, chanced so to fall out, that from words they proceeded to blows; whereupon soon after ensued a suit of Law: the main witness to prove what was done, was the Vintners Boy, who being sub-pæna'd and sworn at the day of tryal, began to tell his tale in this sort: My Lord (said he) I live at the sign of the St. Pauls head, my name is John, and by reason I draw to Gentlemen of the best Wine, they have given me the appellation of honest, so that I am now commonly called honest John. My Lord seeing him so impertinent in his preface, called to him, and bid him speak to the matter, for that was quite besides it. I'll warrant you (said John) you shall find it to the purpose presently, and thereupon proceeded: My Lord, these two Gentlemen came in there to drink, the one of them his name is Mr. B. the other Mr. F. it was about three of the Clock in the afternoon, and we had newly risen from dinner: we had to dinner that day a piece of boild powder'd Beef, and butter'd Turneps, and part of a roasted Brest of Mutton cold; I could not eat
very

very much of it, by reason I had gotten a cold with sitting up late two or three nights before. My Lord hearing him flie out thus again in his impertinences, bid him speak more home to the matter, or else hold his tongue for a Doe. My Lord (said John) I was sworn to speak the truth, and all the truth, and I am resolved to do it; and so went on: These two Gentlemen asked for a room, and I shewed them up into the green Chamber, it was two stories high, upon the left hand as soon as you are up two pair of Stairs. Honest John (said my Lord) if thou art so called, trouble us not with these impertinences, but come to the matter. I am about it, quoth John, and so proceeds: As soon as they were in the room, they said unto me, Now honest John bring us up a pint of the best Canary, which I did; it was of the furthestmost Pipe but one in all our Sellar, and we had no better wine in all the house; it cost my Master four and twenty pound the Pipe: as I was going up the stairs, my Master called to me, and asked me whither I was carrying up that pint of wine, and I told him to the two Gentlemen. John (said my Lord) that is not the question I asked you, but what passed betwixt these two Gentlemen? I shall tell you, quoth John, presently: When I had carried them up the wine, and that they had tasted

tasted of it, they told me that I was as good as my word, and that it was of the best Canary. But, said my Lord, what is this to the purpose? Yes (said John) it is to the purpose, and if your Lordship pleases to come thither at any time, I shall draw ye of the same wine, and then you will say that honest Johns words were true indeed. My Lord seeing no good to be done with John, bid them set him aside, which John took in very great dudgeon, professing he had spoken nothing but the truth, neither durst he speak any thing but what was true, his Master bidding him before he came to have a special care of what he said. After some other Witnesses being examined, the Counsel on the Plaintiffs side began to speak in the name of his Client (as the usual custom is) saying, My Lord, we came into this Tavern with a peaceable intention, onely to drink a pint of wine with that Gentleman, where we were by him abused, beaten and misused, and put in danger of our life. John hearing him to say so, could forbear no longer, but stepping up, said, My Lord, that fellow with the coysie there tells a most damnable lye, for he says he was beaten and misused in our house, when (I can justifie) that he never was in our house in all his life.

Plain

A Rich. ~~arrived~~ Intestate, his son came up to London to take out Letters of Administration of his Estate, but being unacquainted with the customs belonging to the Spiritual Courts, he went first to a friend of his, telling him, *That his Father dyed detested, leaving onely him and two young Infidels, and therefore he was devised to come up to London to a Concealer of the Law, that he might thereby diminish the Estate.*

Good to save something for last.

One who was much conceited of his wit, had made several Encomions on his Mistress, beginning first with her head, and so proceeded upon each member, until such time as he came to her feet, missing no part save onely her neck; the reason whereof being demanded, O, said one, there is great reason for that, *He reserves the neck-verse for himself, knowing he shall have occasion for it hereafter.*

TWo men walking through a Church-yard, one of them affirmed that the Grave was Hell; the other who had a shrewd curst wife lately buried there, pointing

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ing to her Grave, said. *Then one of the great-
est Devils in Hell*

Too true, the more's the pitty.

ONe that was a common swearer, being
sub-pœna'd upon a tryal at Law, where
a Book was tender'd him whereon to take
his Oath, he told them they might save that
labour, *For there was no oath but he could
swear it without Book.*

Nothing ask'd, nothing given.

ONe asked a certain boon of a Gentle-
man, for which his main reason to in-
force it, was this ; Alas, Sir, you may very
well grant it me, for this is *nothing*. To whom
the Gentleman replyed ; Sir, I shall grant
you your request, *for (according to your
own words) 'tis nothing that you ask me, and
so nothing I grant you.*

Children and Fools tell truth.

ONe was chiding his Prentice for being
so great a gurmundizer, telling him
that his Mistress did not eat the fourth part
so much as he, and yet she was plump and
fair ; to whom the Prentice said, I onely
eat at set meals, but my Mistress hath *Cul-
lises* before Dinner, and sweet-meats after
dinner,

dinner, and puts more into her belly then ever, you see or heard of.

A double mistake.

A Gentleman lodging in a strange Inne, having store of mony in his pockets, put his Breeches under the Bolster, when he went to Bed to secure them: but the next morning (having gotten a pretty dose over night) he had quite forgotten where he had bestowed them; and having fruitlessly searched a pretty while, despairing of finding them, he called for the Chamberlain, asking him if he knew what was become of them? Sir, (said the Chamberlain) are you sure that you brought any in with you? Why, quoth the Gentleman, do you think that I came without Breeches? Sir, said he, if you are sure that you brought them with you, you had best search your pockets, and I question not but you will finde them there.

Some seeking to praise, dispraise.

A Gentleman having invited (about the Lent-time) some friends to his house, his Lady provided such chear as was seasonable, the Collops and Eggs, and as it fell out (a Hog being slain) she had a service

vice of the puddings, which being deservedly commended by the Guests; Nay, said the Gentleman, friends be it known to you, *my wife is abomination good pudding-wife.*

A Taylors Hell.

A Certain Taylor, who had in his lifetime damned many a peece of Stuff to Hell; at last chanced to fall extreemly sick, and being in a trance, he thought he saw all the Feinds of Hell mustered in his Chamber, where they displayed a Banner of sundry colour'd Silks which he had stolen, wishing that he might finde them all in Hell. This Vision so affrighted him, that upon his recovery he reformed his life, carried home what was remaining of any Garment, and laid a special charge upon his Journey-man, that if any stuff brought in fell out too large, if he saw his fingers inclined to filch, that he should put him in minde of the Vision. Not long after, a Captain of a Ship brought to him some Velvet to make him thereof a pair of Breeches, which being too much, he snipt away three quarters of a yard of it under his Shop-board: his Journey-man seeing this, called to him, and said, Remember Master the Vision: Peace knave (said he) peace, there

was

was not one such colour as this in all the whole Flag.

Anger without cause.

A Gentleman sent to an Arras-maker, bidding him to work him on a piece of Cloath the figure of a Castle with a Dog in it, sitting upon his tail and barking, and at the Castle-gate a man standing in armour; all which the Work-man promised to do, and not long after brought it unto him. But when the Gentleman saw it, he began to fume, asking the work-man where was the Dog that he bid him to make? O Sir, said the work-man, I suppose those that are in the Castle are now gone to dinner, and the Dog may be in some corner gnawing of a bone.

A costly truth.

A Wealthy Citizen had a riotous spendthrift to his son, whereupon he vowed that when he dyed, he would give all his Estate to the poor. In a little while time his son, what with Dice, and what with Drabs, had spent all the maintainance that he had; whereupon he told his Father that he might now give all his Estate to him, and yet keep his vow, for he could not give it to one poorer then himself.

A witty theivish answer.

A Fellow that was weary of going on foot, spying a lusty Gelding in a Pasture, was resolved to ride, but having no bridle (and a halter being ominous) he was enforced to imbrace the Brute about his neck, and with all speed made to the road: But the Owner being in some grounds not far off, and espying the cheat, made after him undiscovered, and being very well hors'd, over-took this rank Rider; and requiring of him the reason of his speed, the other said, Sir, are you in a good hour the Master of this wilde Jade? In a good hour I am, replied the Gentleman, for half an hour later I believe had alterd the case. In troth, Sir, (said the Theif) it is the joy of my heart that you have thus happily over-taken me, for this head-strong Jade might very well have run away with me: Or else, said the Gentleman, you have run away with him, for therein was most danger; but howsoever I will ease you of that trouble; and so dismounting him, forced him to walk on foot to the next Village, where at the Whipping-post he had the price of his postage scored up upon his back.

More

More afraid then hurt.

A Gentleman in a Duel having received a small scratch, being unaccustomed to wounds, sent for a Chyrurgion in all haste to dress him; who having opened it, bid his man with all speed possible fetch such a salve from such a place in his Study. Why, quoth the Gentleman, is the hurt so dangerous? O yes (answered the Chyrurgion) *if he returns not the speedier, the wound will heal it self, and so I shall loose my fee.*

A mistake.

A Mechanick in the late times of libertism, when every one took a freedom to himself to preach and prate what he would; this fellow usurping the Pulpit, would needs be in his comparisons, how that the wicked kept company and flocked together, even like, saith he, as you see the Crows how they fly in the Air by themselves, and the Rooks fly in the Air by themselves; the White Herrings they swim in the Sea by themselves, *and the Red Herrings they swim in the Sea by themselves.*

C 3

Another

Another.

A Young Maid being come out of the Country to live in London, upon a discourse concerning Lent, and what Countries were best provided for Fish; she very soberly attested, that where she was born (being near the Sea-side) the Fisher-men there with their Nets did catch so many Red Herrings, as served all their County, not onely for Lent, but for Wednesdays and Frydays all the year long.

Wit without Book.

ONe having read a very pithy, learned and witty Dedication before a flat, dull, foolish Book, he very much admired, and said, how they should come to be so match'd together: *In truth,* said another, *they may very well be match'd together, for I profess they are nothing of kin.*

Of Witches.

A Company being in a place together discoursing of Witches, one of them affirming that there were no Witches; a woman then present with more earnestness (I suppose) then truth, contradicted him, saying, That there were Witches, she knew it by experience.

Of

Of the Wall.

ONE walking in London-streets, met a Gallant, who cryed to him a pretty distance beforehand, *I will have the wall. Yea,* (answered he) *and take the house too, if you can but agree with the Landlord.*

An alone Jest.

ANOTHER passing along London-streets, saw written upon a Paper that was fixed on a Door: *This House and Shop is to be let*: which he having read, asked a Shop-keeper at the next Door, *If that Shop were not to be let alone?* *Yea,* (said he) *you may let it alone if you please.*

The Spaniards wooden God.

A Country man in Spain coming to an Image enshrined, the extruction and first making whereof he could well remember; and not finding from the same that respectful usuage which he expected, *You need not be so proud* (said he) *for I have known you from a Plum-tree.*

A friend at need.

SOME Guests being at Dinner at a Gentlemans table; amongst other dis-

24 Poor Robin's Jests: or,

scourse, the Mistress of the house asked a Gentleman, how many Children he had. Madam, said he, my wife hath eight. Now she, said she, these men are always putting of causeless suspicions upon women; why could you not as well have said that you had eight? Tush, quoth her husband, why do you blame the Gentleman? he hath spoken very discreetly, for it might redound to his shame to name all his own Children, and therefore he onely tells you how many his Wife hath.

Who are Debtors.

ONE notwithstanding that he owed much, was boasting that he was out of Debt; to whom another said, That may very well be, for those onely are in debt who mean to pay it.

A wise question of a Mahumetan.

A Persian in England attending on the Ambassador, anno 1625; who perceiving wealthy people in London, in the time of the Plague tumultuously posting to their Country Houses: *What* (saith he) *have the English-men two Gods, the one for the City, and the other for the Country?*

A hungry Banquet.

ONE invited some friends in a complementing way home to dinner with him, which contrary to his expectation was accepted of; in their way as they went, he told them though they found short of meat at his house, yet they should have good sauce; which he made good in the performance, for when they came to his house, there was not any Viſuals, and hunger (you know) is of all other the best sauce.

Health before Wealth.

A Rich man told a poor man that he walked to get a ſtomack for his meat: And I (ſaid the poor man) walk to get meat for my ſtomack.

The building of Cripple-gate.

TWO men walking by Cripple-gate, one of them asked the other from whence the name of that Gate was derived, to which he answer'd, That there was a Cripple of famous memory, who ſtole the golden Weather-cock from Pauls Steeple, before it was a Tower, which was, ſaid he, the higheſt piece of deſperate valour that ever was performed, but that his Piety was as notorious

Poor Robin's Jest: or,
rious as his Sacriledge, for with the same
Weather-cock he built this Gate, which e-
ver since retains his name.

The Fryars Doctrine.

A Fryar being to preach, took for his
Text this Theme, *Erat quidam homo*
which is in English, *There was a certain man*.
Out of which words, says he, you must note
that the Text says there was, it doth not
say there is: for now adays men are uncer-
tain, both in promise, oath, word and
deed; yet however you finde by my Text
that a certain man there was, but if you
search all the Bible over, you cannot finde
this Text, *That there was a certain woman*.

Earl Gowry

When Gowry (who attempted to kill
King James) was had to the Tow-
er, a friend of his told him, Ah, my Lord
I am sorry you had no more Wit. *Tu*
(quoth he) *thou knowest not what thou sayest*
when sawest thou a fool come hither?

A shirking shift.

A Nimble Taylor coming to an Inn
something late at night, was by re-
son of his handsome outside lodged in a be-

ter room and bed then he deserved; for the Candle being left with him, he very succinctly made him a good Shirt of one of the Holland Sheets, dispatching the remaining shreds in the fire. In the morning he found very much fault with his lodging, for that he had but one Sheet; the Wench swore she thought she brought two: and none ever imagining the conversion of the Linen, he came cleanly off, though he came lowzily on, being better able to shift ever after.

A Parson out-witted by a Woman.

A Woman whose Neighbour was dead, was sent by the deceaseds wife to a Parson, to speak to him to preach a Funeral Sermon; she that would dispatch her business throughly, having a promise of him to do it, would likewise be so inquisitive as to know the price of it: The Parson told her twenty shillings was the lowest. Why, said she, *an Ass once spake for an Angel, and will not you speak under a piece?* The Parson feeling himself a little gall'd, told her she was better fed then taught. True, said she, *for my husband feeds me, and you teach me.*

The Country-man and Mastive Dog.

A Poor man having a Pike-staff on his shoulder, and travailing thorough a Country Village, a great Mastive Cur ran mainly at him, so that hardly he could defend him from himself. At the length it was his chance to kill the Dog: for which the owner immediately apprehending him, and bringing him before a Justice, alleadged that he had slain his Servant, which defended his life, house and goods, and therefore challenged satisfaction. The Justice leaning more in favour to the Plaintiff, being his Friend, Neighbour and familiar, then to the justice of the cause, reprov'd the poor fellow very sharply, and peremptorily commanded him to make satisfaction, or else he would commit him to prison. That were injustice, replied the poor man, because I killed him in defence of my own life, which deserveth much better respect then a Million of such Cur Sirrah, sirrah, said the Justice, then you should have turned the other end of your Staff, and not the Pike; so the Dogs had been saved, and your own in no danger. True, Sir (quoth the fellow) if the Dog would have turn'd his tail and bit me

with

with that, and not his teeth, then we both had
started quietly.

Much adoe about nothing.

A Brace of Students who were kept short of the Colledge-fines (for that was meat for their betters) while their Seniors were sharing that money, walkt in their Grove, (taking the fresh Air without any contradiction of Superiours :) At last one makes a supposition, If thou or I now should happily finde a purse of Gold, how should we divide it? They were you must conceive of different degrees, one Master, the other Batchelor of Arts. The Master of Arts like the Lyon, asked the greatest part; the other said no, *Simul occupantes, æquè dividendes* : Equal purchase, equal share. The Master would not forgo his priviledge of Seniority; the Junior insisted upon his title of half: at last it grew so hot, that they fell to cuffs, and bang'd one another very soundly, until weary of their blows, they began to examine each other of the ground of their falling out, which was no other then about the dividend of a purse of gold which was never yet found.

Truth

Truth mistaken.

A Lady sent her servant to the Play-house, to inquire what Play was acted that day ; the Players told him, *'Tis pity she is a Whore.* The fellow misunderstanding them, that they spake this of his Lady, and not the name of the Play, when he returned, refused to tell his Lady, but said *They were a company of Rogues to abuse his Lady, who was as honest as any of their Mothers.*

A shrewd mistake.

A Nother seeing in a Play-bill upon post, *A great man gull'd*, and underneath, *By his Majesties servants*, read it thus *A great many gull'd by his Majesties Servants* adding to it these words : *By my soul as true a thing as ever was writ.*

A witty retort.

MR. Burbage the Player riding a Galliop up the Strand, one called to him out of a Tavern-window, asking him what Play was to be acted that day : he being angry to be stopped upon such a frivolous business, told him he might see that upon every Post. *O cry you mercy* (said the other) *indeed I took you for a Post, you ride so fast.*

Mr. Beaumont and Mr. Fletcher.

MR. Beaumont and Mr. Fletcher those Gemini of Wit and Learning, being about to make the Play called, *The Maids Tragedy*: whiles it was yet in the Embryo, they being walking in the fields contriving their design, of which one part was concerning murdering a King, one saying he would have him stabb'd, the other poysoned; A Country fellow who undiscerned heard their discourse, concluding it no less then high Treason that they were about, followed them to the next Town, and observing the Tavern whither they went to drink, hyed him to the Constable, who taking a strong Guard along with him, apprehended the two Gentlemen; but being had before a Justice of the Peace, they making the truth of the matter appear, were soon dismiss'd; when returning to the Tavern, they had great store of mirth to see their Tragedy to have such a Comical beginning.

THe same Play being to be acted in the time of the Rump-Parliament; in that part thereof where a Lady was to be sworn to secrecie concerning the murder of the King

King asore said; some being of Opinion to binde her to it one way, and some another: A Gentleman Spectator hearing the Controversie, bid them to give her the Covenant, and he would warrant them that would do it.

Valorous Love.

A Butcher being once at a Play, called, *The Greeks and Trojans*, seeing *Heſtor* over-powred by *Myrmidons*, got upon the Stage, and with his Battoon took the *Trojans* part so stoutly, that he soon routed the *Greeks*, and rayled upon them loudly for a company of cowardly slaves to assault one man with so much odds. He stroke more over such an especial acquaintance with *Hector*, that for a long time *Heſtor* could not obtain leave of him to be kill'd, that the Play might go on; and the cudgelled *Myrmidons* durst not enter again, till *Heſtor* having prevailed upon his unexpected second, returned him over the Stage again into the yard from whence he came.

Of Mr. Johnson.

BEN. Johnson the famous Comædian having been drinking at the Devine Tavern; as he came down stairs his foot slipped, so that he fell down three or four steps

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at once, and in his fall beating against a door, made it to fly open, in which were a company of Gentlemen a drinking: having recovered himself, and gotten again upon his feet, he said unto them, *Since it was my chance Gentlemen to fall into your company, I intend for to drink with you before that I go.*

Another.

AT another time Ben. Johnson being in place with a company of Gentlemen, who were busie in riming; one of them concluding his Speech with *Nebuchadonoxer*, another said it was impossible for any one to make a rime to that: Yes, said Ben, that *He* may be done thus: *A mischief light on you no Sir.*

A Poetical Jest.

MR. Randolph (whom all must acknowledge for one of the prime Wits of his age) having been drinking hard late one night, the next morning went to an Ale-house to quench that thirst which commonly burns in a man after immoderate drinking: there was in the same room with him two Mizers, who had adventured upon a costly charge of a penny apiece for their forenoon's draught. Now Mr. Randolph by reason of his drought spitting very dry,
D. one

Poor Robin's *Jests* : or,
one of these Mizers perceiving it white, i-
magining it to be a piece of Silver, stooped
to take it up ; which Mr. Randolph seeing
said unto him , *I pray, Sir, do not rob the
Spittle.*

A good Jest d'you see ?

A Certain Vintner was extreemly trou-
bled with the word *d'you see*, so that
upon all occasions he would be sure to use
it : upon a time being put to it to say Grace
he began, The eyes of all things, *d'you see*
do look unto thee, *d'you see ?* and thou
providest their meat, *d'you see ?* in due se-
son, *d'you see ?* and so on *d'you see*, till
he came to *Amen d'you see*. But before he
had done, no man could see for laughing
which so vexed him, that he swore he would
not say Grace *d'you see ?* so long as he lived
for this, *d'you see ?* that a man should
laugh'd at for his good will, *d'you see ?*

Another of that kinde.

Much of the same nature was that of
Judge, whose customary word to a
material thing was, *in that kinde*. He being
once to give a charge at the Assizes, began
thus: Gentlemen of the Jury, you ought
to inquire after Recusants *in that kinde*, as
such as do not frequent the Church *in that*

kinde; but above all, such as haunt Ale-houses *in that kinde*; notorious Whoremasters *in that kinde*, Drunkards and Blasphemers *in that kinde*, and all notorious offenders *in that kinde*, are to be presented *in that kinde*, and as the Laws direct *in that kinde*, must be proceeded against *in that kinde*; which set all the people into such a laughter of *that kinde*, that being charged by the Cryer to silence, they could not, till they had ended laughing and crying together: And a Gentleman after the Court arose, being asked how he liked the Judges charge, said, It was the best *in that kinde*, that ever he heard.

Queen Mary and Heywood.

QUEEN Mary lying upon her death-bed, Mr. Heywood the Poet came to see her, to whom she said; *Ab Heywood, bere they intend to kill me, for my Physitians will force me to sweat, which is so great a pain to me, that I will rather dye then to endure it. Madam (said he) be contented, you must sweat, or else I swear we shall all sweat for it.*

French arms and French harms.

A Stranger coming up to London, chanced to happen into a house of iniquity,
D 2 which

36 *Poor Robin's Jest*s : or,
which had the *Flower-de-luce* to its Signe,
where he got a Clap with a French Coult-
staff; whereupon at his going forth, he wrote
this Verse over the Door :

*All you who hither chance to come,
Mark well ere you go in ;
For French-mens arms are Signs without,
And French-mens harms within.*

A gall'd Horse will wince.

ONÉ called a man *Afs* before his wife's
face, whereat she was nothing dis-
pleased; soon after he called him *Ox*, at
which she began to curse and to swear : *My*
Mistress (said he) *now I see you begin to wince,*
when I touch your husband in the gall'd place.

A new way to get Mony.

NO longer ago then in the year 1666, a
certain Quaker, upon a certain day,
came a wooing to a certain Widow, living
in a certain place not far from *Aldgate* : In
the conclusion of his wooing discourse, he
told her he had forgotten to bring his purse
with him; and being to buy some wares be-
fore his return, *Canst thou not* (said he) *lend*
me an Angel of the worldly Mammon till I see
thee again? Yea, (said she) I will lend thee

an Angel; but this spirit of light could never see the way to the House any more afterwards, for neither he nor the Angel ever appeared to her again.

All covet, all loose.

A Poor Clyent went to a rich Lawyer to have his Counsel in a certain Cause, which after some long attendance he obtained; but going away without paying him, the Lawyer asked him for money: Sir, said the Clyent, I have no coyn, but will it please you to take a Hare? The Lawyer who had rather play at small Game then stand out, told him that he would: Then (quoth the fellow) you must run apace, for this morning one run quite away from me.

Cromwel and the Scotch Parson.

When Cromwel was with his Army in Scotland, one Andrew Canra Scotch Parson was to preach before him; who in his Prayer used these expressions, *Leard, we beseech thee, look down here upon our General before us, and as thou hast put a sword into his hands, see, we beseech thee, to put it into his heart, for the good of the three Nations.*

D. 3. *not you noqu* Na

No Plague greater then a curst Wife.

IN a great Plague-time, a Constable passing by one of his Neighbours houses heard his wife sonndly basting him; wherefore that night he set up a Red-cross upon the door. The man next morning seeing it, was highly offended, and complained thereof to the Alderman of the Ward; who whereupon was sent for to answer wherefore he did it. To which the Constable said, Yesterday passing by his house, I heard his wife soundly belam him, and I think there can be no greater Plague in a house then that.

A Bull.

A Citizen riding from London to Cambridge, upon his return, some of his friends asked him what he saw worthy of notice in his Journey: Truly, said he, I saw little memorable, but onely at a place called Stableford, where was a Church tyled with thatch.

The Gallant and Gentlewoman.

A Young Gallant having some discourse with a Gentlewoman, of which she doubted the truth of it; he to confirm it, said, Upon my soul, Madam, it is true. To which

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which she replied, *Pray stake down some other pawn, for that is forfeited long ago.*

The Sick-man.

A Man lying desperately sick, was advised by his Physicians to prepare himself for Heaven, for he was not like to continue long in this world : I (saith he) God pardon me as I forgive all them that have injured me ; and for such a one who hath much wronged me, I pardon him with all my soul ; but if it please God that I recover this sickness, I will be revenged on him, if it be possible.

Hanging ends all trouble.

A Plain Country-man riding up to the Term, met by the way a Prisoner, who was going to the Gallows to be hanged ; to whom he said aloud, *Thrice happy man thee, that hast nothing at all to do at the Term.*

The Country-man and his Ass.

A Country-man driving his Ass before the Court-gate, beat and misused the poor Beast ; which a Gentleman or two seeing, bid him be more milde, and favour the dumb Creature : with that the Clown

40 Poor Robin's Jests: or,
straightways doft his cap, and made a low
courtesie to the Ass, saying, I beseech you,
good Master Ass, pardon my boldness all this
while, for I never thought that you had friends
in the Court before now.

A Bull.

TWo Neighbours walking in Smithfield
on a Market-day, one of them espyed
a goodly Stear: Look yonder (said he to his
fellow) did you ever see a braver Cow in your
life, then is that same Bull?

The Country man and his wife.

A Country-man having been at London,
saw there many brave women and o-
ther fine Lasses, far surpassing his homely
Jane at home; wherefore upon his return,
when his wife gave him a mess of hot broath
to Supper, he bid her take it away, for he
had seen such fine Lasses at London, as had
quite taken away his stomach: his Wife
asking him if he did not also see fine men
there, he replied, Yes: Why husband (said
she) those fine women were made for those
fine men. Nay then wife (said he) reach me
my porridge again.

The Maids mischance.

A Country-maid riding to the Market in Leaden-hall-street, in the Market-place her Mare stumbled, and down she fell over and over, shewing all that ever God sent her; whereupon being much abashed, at rising up again, she turn'd her round about unto the people, and said, Uds foot (Sirs) did you ever see the like before?

A Painter.

ONe desired a Painter to paint him the Picture of a fair Whore: Sir (said he) you may spare that cost, for if she be a right Whore, she will paint her self.

The Scold.

A Country-man who had a scold to his wife, when she dyed, he would needs have these two Lines written upon her Grave for an Epitaph:

*Here in this ground lyes buried a wife,
Who was a Plague to her husband all the
days of her life.*

No

No life to Leachery.

Certain merry Blades seeing a fair Gentlewoman standing at her window, one of them said, I could willingly pawn my Cloak for a nights lodging with yonder Gentlewoman: A Beggar standing by, and over-hearing him, said, *I, and thither should my Crutches go too.*

Saving in this case the greatest gains.

One being in danger of drowning, another that stood on the shore said to him, If you gain but to yonder tree, you are safe enough. Tell not me (said he) of getting or gaining, *for I care now but onely to save my self.*

A Bull.

One commended a Greyhound of his for an excellent running Dog: Sir, said another, I have a black Bitch at home, I am confident is a better running dog then he.

The young man and his father.

A Young man receiving an hurt on his face which much disfigured him, his father said, it would not have grieved him half so much if it had been in his arm, leg, or any place but there. To whom the

he son replied, Oh father, receivers must
be no chusers.

The Cuckolds Cap.

A Country-woman whose Hen had newly hatched, was perswaded that the Chickens would thrive the better if they were kept in a Cuckolds Cap; whereupon she went to most of her Neighbours to borrow one; but they denying they had any, she in a chafe said, Well, before I will be thus troubled to borrow, I will ere long have one of my own.

The Country-man and Fryar.

A Fryar being belated in his Journey as he travel'd the Country, desired lodging of a poor man, who very charitable to such people, lodged him in his own bed; the Fryar being weary fell fast asleep, and the man and his wife having no other lodging went to bed to him: the next morning the man arose betimes, and went to work, leaving the Fryar abed with his Wife: being at his work he fell into a great laughter, and being by one of his fellows demanded the reason thereof, I laugh, said he, to think how shamefac'd the Fryar will be whom I left abed with my wife.

The

The Fryar and the Pope.

A Preaching Fryar came once to see Pope Sixtus the Fourth, who shewed him all his Treasure and Jewels, and withal saying, I cannot say as my Predecessor St. Peter did, *Gold and silver have I none.* Truly, answer'd the Fryar, neither can you say as he did to the sick, lame, and impotent people, *Arise, take up your Couch and walk.*

The Arch-bishop and Country-man.

AN Arch-bishop of Cullen riding with a great train after him, by a place where a Country-man was a ditching; the Swain burst out into an exceeding great laughter; which the Bishop perceiving, commanded him straight before him, and asked him, Why he laughed so? Marry I laugh (said the Pefant) to think that St. Peter, who was the Prince of the Apostles, should live and dye so poor; and that those who pretend to be his Successors should ride in so great Pompe and State. The Arch-bishop seeing himself thus nearly toucht, said, My friend, I ride not with this great train as I am an Arch-bishop or Priest, but as I am a Duke and Prince of the Empire. The Swain hearing him say so, burst out into a greater

greater laughter then before; and being again demanded the reason thereof, i laugh (said he) to think that if this Duke, you name your self to be, were in Hell, where do you imagine the Arch-bishop would be?

The Noble-mans Arms.

There was a Noble-man which gave the Half-Moon to his Crest, and had it fairly engraven upon a Wall: one of his Pages seeing it, wrote underneath with a Coal, *Be it never at full.* His Master having knowledge of what he had written, asked him the reason thereof; who answered, Marry, Sir, *because the Moon being once at full, of force it must decrease.*

A Bull.

A Gentleman and his man riding along the way, the man chanced to spy a fellow astride upon a Cow, and said to his Master, Look yonder, Sir, is one on horse-back upon a Cow. That, said the Gentleman, is a notorious Bull. Nay, Sir, (said his man) *it is a Cow, I know by her teats.*

Another.

One being invited to a Breakfast, there was set before him a Rib of Beef hardly

46 *Poor Robin's Jest*s : or,
ly roasted : being afterwards asked by one
what cheer he had ; Why, said he, we had
an excellent Rib of roast Beef, but I could
eat none of it, because it was raw.

A merry old man.

ONe asking a merry Blade how old his
wife was ; he answered, Her mark
is not yet out.

A Bull.

TWo men being at Bowls, the one of
them fell a swearing grievously. To
whom the other said, Wherefore do you
swear thus ? it is the great mercy of God
*that the Bowling-green doth not fall up-
on our heads.*

The hungry Traveller.

TWo Travellers meeting together at an
Inne, had a Capon served them in for
their dinner : the one of them being very
sharpset, to while the other off, asked him
whether he had a father living or no ? the
other answered, No ; and withal enter'd
into a long discourse, how, where, and when
his father dyed. In the mean time the
Questionist had eaten up all the best of the
Capon ; which the tale-teller at last per-
ceiving,

The Compleat Jester.

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ceiving, half angry said unto him, Now I pray you tell me, have you a father living? He answered, No. Then tell me (quoth the other) how he dyed: He very earnest at his victuals, briefly answered, *Suddenly, suddenly, very suddenly.*

The Taylor and Weaver.

A Taylor and a Weaver being at a Farmers house together, had a hot Custard set before them: the Taylor being hungry, very nimbly took a spoonful thereof and put it in his mouth, which so much scalded it, that it made his eyes to run over with water: the other looking on him, asked him why he wept? he not being willing to be known that he had burnt his mouth, told him that he had but one Unkle in all the world, and he was hanged, and whensoever he thought of him it made him to weep. The Weaver thinking he had said true, put a spoonful in his mouth, and burnt it also, that his eyes likewise water'd: the Taylor perceiving it, spake to the Weaver, and said, Tell me wherefore do you cry? The Weaver perceiving how he was beguil'd, Marry, said he, *I weep because you were not banged when your Unkle was.*

The

The skilful Physitian.

THere was a Physitian who pretended by his skill in casting of Urines to tell what distemper any man was troubled with; a woman whose husband had fallen down a pair of stairs, went with her husbands water to this cunning Leach, who having by discourse pumpt out as much as he could of the Woman, at last gueſt that he fell down eight stairs; but the woman making it appear that it was eleven, he asked her if there were all the water: she confessing there was some left, *O then (said he) there went the three stairs away.*

The Gardiner and his wife.

A Gardner being to be hanged, his wife followed him to the Gallows to give him her last kiss; who spying her said, Out upon ye you idle quean, we are to like thrive well at the years end, when there cannot be a meeting in the Country but you must be at it; *home and weed housewife, home and weed, and do not stand loytering here.*

A Tinkers Character.

ONe said that a Tinker was no coward but a man of Mettle, and that a canting
Rogue

Rogue was an enemy to Hostlers, because he was of the Infantry, and always went on foot.

Of early rising.

A Father chid his Son for lying so long abed in the morning, telling him that such a one with early rising had found a bag of gold; to whom the Son answer'd, *Too early rose he (father) that lost it.*

Of Roger Bale.

ONe Roger Bale a poor Carpenter, but a good Workman, was for his skill employed chief Master in the building of a Bridge, whereby he gained so much that he became a rich man. And in ostentation upon one of the main Posts thereof engraved these words, *(Roger Bale made this Bridge)* another came after, and wrote underneath with a coal *(This Bridge made Roger Bale)*

Of Wood the great eater.

WOod the great eater of Kent having over-cloy'd himself with feeding too much upon a wager, being invited to some more teeth-exploits the next day, he complained that he had lost his stomack; Well, said one that stood by, *if a poor man*
E happen

50 Poor Robin's Jests : or,
happen to finde the same, be is for certain ur-
terly undone.

The Parson and his man.

A Certain Parson sent his man one Sun-
day morning to one *David* a Butcher,
for some meat for his Dinner: Mean while
he went to Church to Preach, and having
taken out his Text, was reciting many au-
thorities out of Scripture for the proof of
the same, And now (says he) what says *Da-
vid* to this matter? Just as he said this, in-
steps his man at the Church-door, and
hearing him talk of *David*, said aloud, No
more meat (he swears) unless you pay him
the old score.

Of Musicians.
A Gentleman being asked his opinion
concerning Musicians, said, that his
were a Consort, five Musicians, four Fiddlers
and three Rogues.

A cunning Lass.
A Bridegroom the first night he was in
bed with his Bride, said unto her
When as at such a time I solicited thy cha-
stity, hadst thou then condescended, I would
never have made thee my wife, for I did
onely

The Compleat Jester.

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onely to try thee. Faith (said she) I imagined as much, but I had been cozened so three or four times before, and I was resolved to be cozen'd so no more.

The slender-witted Gentleman.

IN Spain and those other Countries where the Pope hath Dominion, the Bishops marry not. A Spanish Gentleman who had a slender-witted son, on a time he taught him how to entertain guests with some discourse, as to ask them, How doth your Wife and your Children, your Brother and Sister, &c. The next day a Bishop came to this Gentlemans house, and the Wife-acre his son thus saluted him: I pray you (my Lord) how doth your Wife and your Children, your Sons and your Daughters, your Brothers and your Sisters? &c.

Easier to come down then go up.

A Certain Preacher who desired higher preferment, on a time after his Sermon was ended, coming down the Pulpit, a Gentleman proffer'd him his hand to help him down; Pardon me, Sir, (said he) may it please you rather to help me up, for I can come down alone fast enough.

The Fryar and Woman.

A Fryar being very busie in his Sermon, espyed a woman as busie in talk to one of her Gollips : whereupon he called to her and said, Thou woman in the tawny Gown there, leave thy babbling. The woman angry to be reprehended thus openly, quickly answer'd, *I besprew his heart that bableth most of us two.*

The Dominican and Franciscan Fryars.

A Dominican and a Franciscan Fryar travelling together on the way, came to a Brook, where the Dominican requested the Franciscan, (because he was bare-foot) to carry him over upon his back, to which he willingly condescended, and being in the midst of the Channel, he said to the Dominican, Tell me Brother, have you any mony about ye? The Dominican thinking he looked for something for his pains, answered, Yes ; then said the Franciscan, You know my Order allows me to carry no mony about me, and I am resolved not to break my Vow ; and thereupon threw the Dominican off of his back into the water, who soundly drenched, all too late repented his over-much credulity, in trusting to the Franciscans carrying him over.

The

The learned Conies.

SOME Scholars on a rime going to steal Conies, by the way they warn'd a No-vice amongst them to make no noise for spoiling their Game. But he no sooner espyed some, but he cryed out aloud, *Ecce Cuniculi multi*: Whereupon the Conies ran with all speed into their berries; his fellows chiding him therefore, *Who the Devil* (said he) *would have thought that the Conies had understood Latine?*

A poor Scholars pittance.

A Thin slice of cheese being set before a Scholar, as soon as he saw it, he laid his finger on his mouth, and being asked why he did so, he answered, *Lest my breath should blow it away.*

Of Dr. Mathews.

ONE Dr. Mathew a very learned man, but of little stature; one seeing him pass along the Street, called him in jest, *Minimus Apostolorum*; which he over-hearing, merrily answer'd, yet is *Mathew Maximus Evangelistarum.*

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The turning Doctor.

A N old Doctor which had been a Protestant in King Edwards days, a Papist in Queen Maries days, and a Protestant again in Queen Elizabeths, seeing a Lady dance a Galliard, commended her dancing very much; to which she answer'd, That she knew she danc'd well enough, onely she could not turn so well as he.

Physitians and Lawyers.

IT was once a great controversie in the University of Leyden, between the Physick and Law-Doctors, which should have pre-cedency, and go foremost at Commencements: The Chancellor being deputed to decide this Controversie, asked them whether at an Execution the Fellow or the Hang-man went foremost; and it being answered the Fellow; Then ye Lawyers (said he) go ye foremost as Thieves, and ye Physitians follow after as Hang-men.

A Musitian.

A Musitian who had a very good voice was in consideration thereof profer'd a good exhibition in a Cathedral Church which he refused, and went to another place

place: within a year after he came thither again, but with his voice much impaired, and now he offer'd his service upon those conditions which he formerly refused; but he had answer made him, That *where he wasted his steel, he might go and wast his Iron.*

A mistake.

A Citizen having been abroad in the Country, came home to his wife all bemired with dirt; who asking him how he came in that sad pickle, Why, said he, *as I was riding along in a fair way, my Horse stumbled, and threw me over head and ears in dirt.*

The Knight and Gentleman.

THere was a Knight who spent much, and owed much, who had a young Gentleman living by him, that was so good a fellow as he seldom eat at home; yet notwithstanding retain'd a Steward in continual standing wages: The Knight upon a time merrily asked him what he meant to keep a Steward, having so little use to put him to: The Gentleman no less merrily answer'd, Your worship hath great reason, for in truth my Steward and your Treasurer may very well be whipt at the Carts-tail for Vagabonds.

The Yeoman and Gallant.

A Plain Yeoman riding upon a large lean horse, a Gallant that met him thinking to put a Jest upon him, asked him what a yard of his horse was worth: the Yeoman thereupon alighted, and lifting up his horse-tale, said, Enter into the shop, and they within will show you.

Jack Franck.

MY Lord Maynard kept a Fool whose name was Jack Franck, that went in a py'd Calve-skin suit; he being one day in the High-way, a Gallant came riding by all bedawbed with Silver-lace, who spying Jack, asked him whose Fool he was: said Jack, I am my Lord Maynards Fool; and now I have told ye whose Fool I am, pray tell me whose fool you are.

A witty answer of a Jester.

ONe asked a Lords Jester what vertue he thought was in a Turkey-stone; to which he answer'd, That if you should chance to fall from the top of a house, you to break your neck, and the stone to have no hurt.

A mistake.

A Certain Noble-man being invited to dinner at a Knights house, amongst other chear there was a Chine of Beef, which he did so please him, that he said he would speak to his Slaughter-man to cut all his meat out into Chines.

The Printers man.

A London-Printer sent his Prentice for a mess of Mustard, who asking where he should fetch it; he very surly answer'd him, *In France*; I will, Sir, said the Prentice; and taking a Mustard-pot in his hand, went forthwith down to Billingsgate, where finding a Ship bound for *France*, he embarked therein, and away he went, where he continued so long time before he returned as made up that day twelve-month, when coming to his Master, he delivered the foresaid pot full of Mustard, saying, *Here Master is a mess of French Mustard for you.*

Of the same.

THe said Prentice going up into the work-house, found there a Dutch-man working at the Press; and snatching the Balls out of his hand, gave him a good cuff

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cuff on the ear, and said, *Why how now* *But* *ter-box,* can a man no sooner turn his back *er a* fetch a mess of mustard, but you must straight *an* step in his place?

A Fishmonger a Member.

IN the late times, at such time as the Forces had taken *Abberdeen* in *Scotland* being betwixt sleeping and waking, while they were debating whether they should keep or slight the Town: He thinking he had been talking of keeping *Habberdin*, stepped up and said, For that I think there is never a one here knows better than my self, you must put it into clean Rye straw, &c.

A vindication.

HE being at another time one of a *Committee*, a friend of his told him he heard that he had spoken *High-treason* there; to which he answered, *He lies, for I never spake one word good or bad in all that time*

Country-man and Faulkner.

A Plain Country-man and a Faulkner journeying together, the Country-man told him that his Hawk had dung one; the Faulkner told him he should have *sauced* it. Anon after the fellow stumbled

But fell into a Cow-share; and the Faulk-
 ck, after asking him how he came so bewray'd,
 might answer'd, *He fell in a Cow-mute.*

A mistake

A Gentleman being in company was
 commending a Tobacco-box of his :
 and he asked him whether it were a wooden
 one or no ; No, said he, it is made of Pear-
 wood.

Double meaning.

A Certain Weaver who had often
 broken the eighth Commandment,
 and from all his Customers would be sure
 to steal something more or less, which he
 hid in a privy place he had in his house that
 he called Hell : Now when any of his Cu-
 stomers used to charge him with such theft,
 he would protest and swear, *If I have any
 more then my due, I pray God I may finde
 it in Hell.*

The Maid a Washing.

A Maid washing cloaths by the Rivers
 side, as she stooped many times her
 smock would cleave close to her Buttocks;
 one that came by seeing it, said, Have a
 care Maid, for Bayard biteth on the bri-
 dle: No (quoth she) not so, *he doth but
 only*

Poor Robin's Jest: or,
only wipe his mouth, imagining you will
come and kiss him.

The Devil upon Dun.

ONE prefer'd a rich Miser a Dun horse
to sell him, who utterly refused him
because of the colour, saying, The people
call me the Devil already, and if I should
ride upon him, they would say there is the
Devil upon Dun.

The Justice and fellow.

A Justice of the peace called one that
was brought before him arrant knave
who replied, *I am not so arrant a knave as your
Worship* (and there he made a pawse,
feigning to spit, and then adjoyned)
takes me to be.

A wise reply.

ONE told his Neighbour that he had
Pope in his Belly; who answer'd, *Believe
me so then to have a Devil in my heart.*

The Maid and Physitian.

THERE was a Maid who had taken a draught
too much of the Bottle, and not well
knowing what she ailed, carried her water
to a Physitian, who bid her be of good
cheer.

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will hear, For (said he) within these few moneths
you shall have the cause of your grief in your
arms.

King Edward the Sixth.

King Edward the Sixth, though he drew
no strong Bow, yet he shot well at a
mark; and when Dudley, Duke of Northum-
berland, commended him once for well
shooting, You shot better (said he) when
you shot off my good Uncle Protectors
head.

The Cooper and his Wife.

Hasty Cooper beat his wife with a
hoop for pissing the bed: the Neigh-
bours to reconcile him to her, told him she
was the weaker Vessel; Therefore (quoth
he) do I hoop her, because she should hold water.

The French for a Cuckold.

AN English-man asked a French-gal-
lant what was French for a Cuckold:
who answer'd (Cocque:) Then, said the
English-man, is it not true French to say,
Monsieur vous estes Cocques? the French-man
finding himself toucht to the quick, an-
swer'd, It is true French in the plural num-
ber, but not in the singular.

R. H.

A Gentleman was commending the Wine at the *Rose* in *Newgate-market*. I cannot tell (said one) what praise the Wine deserves, but I am confident there is no better Wine in *London*, then the Ale at the *Unicorn* in *Queens-head-alley*.

The Traveller and King Henry the Eighth.
A Gentleman of King *Henry the Eighth's* privy Chamber went to Travel, and upon his return, the King asked him divers questions concerning his journey; among others, what he had seen memorable in the *City of Venice*: To which he replied, that truly he had taken little notice thereof. For, said he, I onely gallop'd post thorough by night, and so came away.

The Captain in 88.

THe Naval fight against the *Spaniards* in 1588, was pourtrayed in a curious suit of hangings (which are still preserved and adorn the *Parliament-house*) together with the lively Effigies of the most eminent Commanders and Captains in that fight. A Sea-Captain, who had been in that service, looking on the Hangings, and not finding

ing his Effigies there, seemed very angry, saying, he deserved a place there better then some others that were in it: To whom one said, *Be content Captain, and make not this ado, you are reserved for another Hanging.*

The Justice of Peace and Constable.

A Lubberly Constable went to apprehend a Shoemaker within his house; but the Shoemakers wife so well bestirred her, that she soundly basted the Constable, whiles in the mean time her husband got away. The Constable thereupon went to a Justice of peace, and complained unto him of the battery, and of the Shoemakers wives misusage; alleadging that if such a thing were not severely punish'd, it would tend much to his Worthips disgrace: Whereto the Justice answered, *Seeing as thou say'st the disgrace will be mine, I forgive the Shoemakers wife.*

The Country-man and Astrologer W. L.

A Country-man having his wives honesty in suspicion, went one morning betimes to an Astrologer, to be resolved of his doubts; the Wizard was not then up, and the Country-man having extraordinary occasion, untrust a point upon the threshold:

Poor Robin's *Jests* : or,
threshold : At last the Astrologer came
down, and smelling what was done, in a
great chafe, he said, If I knew who it was that
did this nasty trick, I would have him se-
verely punisht. The Country-man hear-
ing him say so ; Nay then (said he) adieu
Wizard, I'll home again to my Jenny ; if you
know not who it was that shoit at your door,
am sure you know nothing of my wives honesty.

The Country-man and Doctor.

• **A** Nother Country-man suspecting that
a young Shepherd was over-familiar
with his Daughter, he went to a Doctor
who was famed for a great Sooth-sayer in
that Country, and presented him with a
couple of Capons, desiring to be resolved of
his foresaid jealousy. The Doctor having
received the present, took a great Book, and
turning over divers leaves, made a rumbling
to himself as though he conjur'd : at last
taking his spectacles off his Noife, he asked
the Country-man both their ages, who
told him that his Daughter was fifteen
years of age, and the Shepherd two and
twenty : Nay, then (said the Doctor) if
they be of that age, byrlady friend, it may
very well be so indeed.

The fellow and his Dogs.

A Gentleman sending a brace of Greyhounds to a Knight, the Knight ask'd the Messenger that brought them, if they were good Dogs or no: Good Dogs, quoth the fellow, here is this (pointing to one of them) the best that ever ran upon four legs; and this other here is five times better then he.

A Noble-man and his Page.

A Noble-man sent his Page with a Peacock between two curious Venice-Dishes to another Earl. Now it chanced that as the Page went to take off the upper dish, to shew the Earl the present, it fell down and broke all to pieces; however, the Earl received the Peacock, and sent one of his Gentlemen with the Page, to excuse him to the Noble-man: Who hearing of the mischance, asked the Page angrily, how he broke it: the Page trembling, let the other fall out of his hand, which likewise broke all to pieces, and then said, *Even thus and like your honour I broke it.*

The poor Man and hasty Cook.

A Poor man in the City of Paris, went to a Cooks shop to have had some meat;
F but

but the Cook was so busied about serving higher Guests, that in the mean time the mans stomach was satisfied with onely the smell of the meat, and so would have gone away : but the covetous Cook would be paid for his dinner ; which the man refusing , at last it was agreed to be decided by the next person that came by, which chanced to be the arrantest Idiot in all the City : he calling for a couple of pewter-dishes, bid the man put his mony betwixt them, and then decreed that the Cook should rest satisfied for the smell of the meat, with onely the gingling of the mony.

A wise reason of a Fool.

A Fool lying asleep in an open field, had prick'd his staff in the ground before his face, to fence him from the wind, and telling one the reason why he did so, the other said, That could no ways shield him : Why (said the Fool) can the wind think ye blow thorough the staff?

A rich Heir.

A Rich Heir was by his Unkle beg'd for a Fool, who used always to have him with him, whithersoever he went : It chanced one time they were at a Gentle-

mans

mans, who had the picture of a Fool drawn in his Hangings. The Fool watching his opportunity, with a pen-knife cut that Picture out of the Hangings, and being reprehended for it, he said, You have more reason to thank me for it; for if my Uncle had spied it, *he would have beg'd the Hangings, as he beg'd my Lands.*

A witty answer of a Fool.

A Serving-man made his Masters Fool believe he would cut off his head: The Fool thereupon ran straight to his Master and told him of it: who answered, Fear not, he shall not cut off thy head, if he do, I'll hang him the next day after. *Nay, I pray (replyed the Fool) rather hang him a day before.*

Another.

ONe chid a Fool for throwing dust into his eyes: the Fool answered, *Truely I took you for a Letter.*

A witty answer of a mad-man.

A Country-man coming to London, went to see the mad-folkes in *Bedlam*; one of them asked him what place he came from; he replyed, from *Newarks*: The mad-man then asked him what business he had

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in Town ; he told him onely to see them.
And come you hither onely to see us, said
he? *believe me (brother) I am not here
for so great folly.*

The Fool and Dog.

A Fool was bitten by a Dog : the next
day the Fool found him asleep in the
grass, and knockt out his brains; saying,
*He that bath Enemies, let him have a care how
and where he sleeps.*

Good to watch as well as pray.

A Gentleman being at his prayers in
the Church, a Cut-purse pickt his
pocket; and complaining thereof, one told
him, *If he had watched as well as pray'd, he
had not lost his money.*

The valorous heart.

A Valiant person in these late Wars, be-
ing to go encounter with the Enemy,
he fell a trembling; at which his men
much marvailing : *See, see, Sirs, (said he)
how basely my flesh quakes to think what a peck
of troubles my adventurous heart will put it
in among*

The

The Lawyer and his Clyent.

A Lawyer told his Clyent, that his Adversary had removed his suit out of that Court into another: *Let him remove it to the Devil,* said he, *if he will, I am sure for mony, you'll follow after it.*

Mony gains the Victory.

A Sergeant at the Law being at supper with a Gentlemen, who had a *Nisi prius* to be tryed the next day: the Gentleman in discourse stated his case to him, and the Serjeant by several arguments made it to be most clear on the Gentlemans side: But when it came to hearing, this Serjeant was retained against him, and the cause went clear against the Gentleman; who thereupon told the Serjeant, Sir, you were not of this opinion yesternight. No matter, said he, for that, *what I talkt at my supper was for my recreation, but what I speak here is for my Fee.*

Nothing without mony.

ONe went to a Lawyer for his advice without mony, but the Lawyer was deaf on that ear; the man being more earnest with him to have his advice: *Will you*

70 Poor Robin's Jest: or,
have your Lampe burn (said he) without
oyl?

*The case is alter'd, quoth Ployden, how that
Proverb came up.*

THere was a Statute in Queen Elizabeths
days, that whoever had Mass said in
their house should pay fifty pounds: Mr.
Ployden being in his heart a Papist; a Noble-
mans Coach-man undertook to bring him
into that premunire; and getting on Priests
weeds, went to Mr. Ploydens, who taking
him for a Priest, he was there admitted to say
Mass: The Council being informed of the
business, Mr. Ployden was sent for, and the
thing laid so home to his charge, that he
confessed it, and deposited down fifty
pounds on the Table. Then one of the
Council said unto him, You may see Mr.
Ployden what a blind Religion you are
nursed in; for he that said Mass at your
house was no Priest, but onely such a No-
ble-mans Coach-man. Nay then, quoth
Mr. Ployden, the case is alter'd; for no Priest,
no Mass, no Mass, no fifty pounds; so swept
up his money, and away he went.

The

The Parents and different Child.

A Man and his wife who were both great drinkers, had a Son very temperate; whereupon one said, that it was contrary to Nature, that the horse should trot, and the Mare trot, and that the Colt should amble.

The Gentleman that was in earnest.

A Gentleman passing up Fleet-street, met with another Gentleman, who gave him so great a juggle, as had well-nigh thrown him into the Chancel; but recovering himself, he stept up to the other Gentleman, and asked him if he were in jest or in earnest; he replying, In earnest; Very well, said he, I am glad it is so, for I tell you true, I like no such jesting.

The Turkey-Pye.

A Poor Gentleman had a Turkey-pye very often serv'd to his Table; a serving-man being to carry it in again, neglected it; whereupon his Master calling for it, and asking why he did not bring it in: he reply'd, It hath been here so often, I thought by this time, it could have found the way in alone.

A Fart.

MAny Clowns being eating of a Posset together, one of them burned his chaps for greediness, with pain whereof he let flie a fart; Go thy ways, said he, thou art the happiest of all thy fellows, for hadst thou still remained within, thou wouldest have been most miserably scalded.

Dead and Alive.

ONe asked a Boy, how many horses his Father had, who answer'd, five, with four that are dead.

The Gentleman and Boy.

A Gentleman riding on the way, saw a Boy keeping of Piggs, and asking him whose they were, he said, his Mothers; then asked he him who was his Mother, the Boy said his Fathers wife; then asked he him who was his Father? Nay, for that Sir (said he) you must ask my Mother.

The Novice Prentice.

A Country-Boy that was new bound Prentice, seeing a Lord Mayors show, and wondring much at the bravery thereof, Who said he would live in the Con-

try,

The Compleat Jester.

73

try, seeing wee must all come to ride in such State?

The Bastard Boy.

A Young Bastard was throwing of stones, amongst a multitude of People; to whom one said, *Have a care Sirrah, or you may chance to hit your Father.*

Like Mother, like Daughter.

A Country-woman much blamed her Daughter for gadding up and down among Ale-houses: Indeed Mother, said she, you have reason to be jealous of me, for I have often heard it said, *that I was your Daughter afore ever that you was married to my Father.*

The Wench with-Child.

A Country-Wench was gotten with-child, and would by no means confess that she had the use of any Man; but being told it was a thing impossible; *Why,* said she, *may not I have a Child without a Man, as well as a Hen lay Eggs without a Cock?*

A loud Lie.

TWO Gentlemen being talking of fishing, one of them said that he had caught a fish in his time as big about as the May-pole

74 *Poor Robin's Jest*: or,
pole in the *Strand*; which being hift at a
a notorious lye, he called his man in to
justifie it, *Ralph* (said he) did not I at such
a time catch a fish as big about as the *May-*
pole in the *Strand*? I cannot tell, said *Ralph*,
for the bigness of it, because I did not mea-
sure it; but if it was not so big, I am
sure it was as long.

The Country-man and Scrivener.

A Country-man who had never been at
London before, was gaping into a
Scriveners shop; the Scrivener standing at
the Door, asked him what he would buy;
Gaffer, said he, what is it you sell? the Scri-
vener told him loggerheads: said the man,
I perceive you have quick trading, that you
have but one left in the shop.

The Man and his Hare.

ONE meeting a man carrying a Hare
at his back, and asking him if he
would sell it; he answered no, I will not
sell it, but give me twelve pence and take it.

The Gentleman having sore Eyes.

A Gentleman that had sore eyes was
wished to forbear drinking wine, as ve-
ry destructive to his eye-sight; but he by no
means

means would yeild unto it, affirming it was
a lesser evil to shut up the windows of his
body, then to let the whole house fall down
for want of reparation.

The Scottish Parson.

A Scot was preaching how that all men
are one anothers Neighbors and Bro-
thers in Christ, even the Turk, the Jew,
the Moore, the Canniball, the far Indian;
and then concluded, *Tea and the very En-
lishman is our Neighbour too.*

Another.

BEN Johnson having over-night taken a
Cup too much of the juice of the Grape,
the next morning his head aking he wore a
Cap, and meeting with Master Drayton his
fellow-Peer, told him he thought he should
die, and therefore desired him for the love
that had been betwixt them, to prefix these
two lines upon his Grave, for his Epitaph:

*Here lies Ben Johnson
That was once one.*

That shall I do Brother Ben (said Master
Drayton) and for the love I always bore to
our Muse, I shall add two more of my own,
which shall be these.

Wbe

*Who whilst he lived in his bravery
Was exceeding full of Knavery,*

Ben Johnson.

MAfter Noy the Attorney-General made once a great Venison-Feast at a Tavern : Master Johnson having a minde some of it, being in a room below with some of his Companions, wrote these verses and sent them up to Master Noy.

*When all the World was drown'd, no Venison
could be found;
For then there was no Park:
Loe here we sit without ere a bit,
Noy has it all in his ark.*

These verses produced not only Venison, but also half a pence in Gold to wash it down in Sack.

Another of him.

BEN Johnson intending to pass throught the Half-Moon Tavern in Aldersgate street, (where is a thoroughfare into Bartholemew-close) the Tavern-door being shut he was denied entrance; whereupon he made these verses :

Since the Half-Moon is so unkind to make me go about,

The Sun my money now shall take, the Moon shall go without.

And thereupon went to the *Sun-tavern* west *Long-lane* end; where afterwards he proved a good guest, forsaking the *Half-Moon* for their discourtesie.

Another.

BEN. Johnson kept an unlucky Boy, who when he sent him of an errand; would usually loyter by the way, and then come home with some lye for an excuse to his Master: It fortuned one day that his Master looking out at an upper window, saw his Boy very devoutly playing at Nine-pins; whereupon when he came home his Master deeply charged him with Idolatry; the Boy denying that ever he was guilty of Idolatry in his life: No sirrah (said he) did not I see you fall down and worship that great wooden Idol the Nine-pin? but I assure ye, if ever ye commit Idolatry again, I shall punish ye worse then those are punished that commit adultery.

Two Poets.

TWO Poets went to Rime, one with another, whereof the one was named *Johnson*, the other *Silvester* : *Silvester* first began in this manner.

*My Name is Silvester.
I lay with your Sister.*

The other answered,

*And my Name is Johnson.
I lay with your Wife.*

But that said *Silvester* is no Rime ; Rime is Rime not, said *Johnson*, I protest it is true though.

Master Randolph.

THo. Randolph the wit of Cambridge, coming to London, had a great mind to see Master *Johnson*, who was then drinking at the Devil-Tavern near Temple-bar, with Master *Drayton*, Master *Daniel*, and Master *Silvester*, three eminent Poets of that age, he being loath to intrude into their company, and yet willing to be called, peeped in several times at the door, insomuch that Master *Johnson* at last took notice of him.

and said, Come in *John Bo-peep*. Master Randolph was not so gallant in cloaths as they, however he sat down amongst them; at last when the reckoning came to be paid, which was five shillings, it was agreed, that he who made the best extempore verse should go Scot-free, the other four to pay it all: whereupon every one of them put out their verses; at last it came to Master Randolphs turn, whose lines were these:

*I John Bo-peep, to you four sheep,
With each one his good fleeces;
If you are willing to pay your five shilling,
'Tis fifteen pence a piece.*

Another of Master Randolph.

MAfter Randolph one day and a Gentleman being in company, they happened to have some angry words pass betwixt them, insomuch that the Gentleman at last drew out his sword, and striking at Master Randolph, cut off his little finger, which was no sooner done, but scarcely before it could be dressed, he made these verses.

Arise-

*Arithmetick nine digits and no more
Admits of, then I still have all my store :
But what mischance bath t'ane from my left
hand,*

*It seems did only for a cypher stand ;
Hence when I scan my verse, if I do miss ;
I will impute the fault only to this :
A fingers loss, I speak it not in sport,
Will make a verse a foot too short.*

John Taylor.

John Taylor the Water-Poet, was once aboard of a Ship called the Hector, where he was by the Master so follow'd with Wine, that it was easily perceived by every Seaman, who thereupon began to play upon him, and to abuse him ; whereupon John in a poetical rage, thus invocated the Patron of the Ship.

*O thou noble Hector, the valiant Son
Priam,*

*Grant that all these men may be as drunk
I am.*

Sir Thomas Moor.

ONe presented Sir *Thomas Moor* once with a Book, for his approbation, who perusing it, and finding nothing in it worthy the reading, told him it would be far better if it were put into verse, which accordingly he did, and brought it again to Sir *Thomas*, who taking it, and reading a few lines thereof; I marry, said he, now I see here is some rime, before there was neither rime nor reason.

Another

THe same Sir *Thomas Moor*, for denying the Kings Supremacy, was committed Prisoner to the Tower of London; At his first landing, the Gentleman-Porter demanded his uppermost garment for his Fee; Sir *Thomas* then pulled a white Cap off of his head which he wore, saying, Here take it, this is the uppermost garment I have.

Another

ONe commended to Sir *Thomas Moor*, the clearness of his Beer, and the well relish of the hop; to whom Sir *Thomas* said, If it had been a little clearer, one could not have discerned it from water; and if it had hopt a little farther, it had hopt into the Thames.

G

Ans.

Another.

Sir Thomas Moor being once a drinking, spied a Flie in his Glass, wherefore with his knife he took it out, but having drunk put in again ; saying, *Though I do not love them in my drink, perhaps some others do.*

Another.

When Sir Thomas Moor was Lord-Chancellour of England, being at his house at Chelsey, some one had gotten a little Dog from a beggar-woman, and presented it to the Lady Moor ; The beggar-woman complained thereof to Sir Thomas, who could not perswade her to part with the Dog : But Sir Thomas told her it belonged to his Office, to do Justice to every one ; and thereupon he commanded his Lady and the beggar-woman to come into his great Hall, placing the one at the one end, and the other at the other ; Then took he the Dog, and holding him in the middle betwixt them both, he bid either of them call him : but no sooner was the Dog let loose, but he ran to the beggar-woman, whereupon he adjudged the Dog to belong to her, and told his Lady that if she would have him, she must buy him of the right owner.

Another.

NOT long after Sir Thomas was condemn-
ed, he sent for a Barber to the
Tower, intending to have his Beard cut;
but before such time as the Barber came,
word was brought him to prepare himself,
for he must dye the next day; Wherefore
when the Barber came, he told him *he had*
thoughts to have cut his Beard, but having now
so short a time to live, he was resolved his
Beard should take the same fortune with his
head.

Another.

AFTERWARDS when he was upon the Scaf-
fold ready for to dye, going to lay
down his head upon the block, he bid the
Executioner stay a while, till such time he
had laid his Beard over the block: for
though, (said he) *the King gave you a Com-*
mission to cut off my head, he gave you no Com-
mission to cut that.

A Nobleman's health.

CERTAIN Knights being drinking a health
to a Nobleman of this Kingdome, one
of them to honour it the more, put into the
Glass some pieces of gold: at last it came
to the share of a merry-disposed Gentleman

84 Poor Robin's Jests : or,
to drink, who having swallowed up all the
wine, turn'd the gold into his hand,
and put it in his pocket, saying, *I never
drank of any drink in my life, but I could
always make bold with the toast.*

A Deformed wit.
ONe seeing a man of excellent learning,
crooked and deformed in body,
said, Lord, *what a poor Cottage doth yonder
good wit inhabit!*

The toothless Miser.
AN over-pin'd Miser complain'd that
he had almost lost all his teeth in his
head, with the Rheume; one that stood by
answer'd him, *it was more likely for want
of use.*

A New-fashion'd Coat of arms.
ONe seeing his enemies Arms fairly
drawn on a wall, took a pencil to
draw the like underneath; So in the first
house he drew his enemies chiefe coat, and
all the rest of the Escutcheon he figured
with twenty kinds of Pots, Cups and drink-
ing-Glasses, and underneath wrote thus:
*Thesemy fore-fathers left me, and I will in-
crease them.*

The

The Thieves question.

ONe having done a robbery in one Shire, was taken in another, and brought before a Justice there, who refused to meddle with him, but return'd him to the Shire where he had done the Robbery: the Thief thereupon said unto him, I pray Sir if that be the Law, let me ask you one question; *If a man be taken abed with his Neighbours wife this night, what must he be sent thither again the next night?*

A Rongish trick, to a Stranger.

A Stranger coming to a Brook, asked a Country-man on the other side, if it were passable or no: Yea, Sir (said he) you may pass very well: But plunging in, he stuck there so fast, that he had much ado to get out again, whereupon he curst and swore very bitterly at the man: truly Sir, said he, I had thought you might, for my Neighbour Parkers geese and mine pass over it every day.

The Country-man.

A Fellow that was hang'd, was carted back again to the Town to be buried, and the Coarse being set down, a great ma-

Poor Robin's Jests: or,
ny men and boyes stood gazing on it. By
chance a Country-fellow came by, and see-
ing them stand so gazing, Away, away (Sirs)
for shame, said he, *you are able to put an ho-
nest man out of countenance, so to gaze on him,*

Of one spitting in the fire.

ONe sitting by the fire to warm him
in very cold weather, said that the
fire was his friend; and quickly after spit
into it: to whom one that sat by him said, *In-
deed Sir you do not well to quench your friends
love by spitting in his face.*

A deep Question.

ONe having read in the story of the seven
Champions, how St. George had killed
the Dragon, and delivered from death Sa-
bra the fair maid of Egypt, he said he won-
der'd how men could invent such lies: for
there never was any Dragon, neither was
there ever any St. George; to which ano-
thor reply'd, For St. George or the Dragon,
it matter'd not whether there were ever such
or no; but the greatest matter was, *whether
there was a maid.*

Of

Of Madam Carlton.

MAdam Carlton, commonly called or known by the name of the German-Princess, being by the procurement of her Husbands friends committed prisoner to the Gate-house; one of those her back-friends went to give her a visit, telling her he had a great desire to see her, having heard much of her extraordinary breeding; to whom she replied; *Alas Sir, I am sorry you have lost your labour, having left that in the City amongst my Husbands kindred, who had such extraordinary need thereof.*

Another of Her.

ANother of these her visitants among other discourse, told her, that *marrying and hanging went by destiny*; to whom she answer'd, that *she had received from the destinies marriage, and he in probability might hanging.*

Hugh Peters and Oliver.

Oliver the late Usurper riding abroad one day in his Coach, Hugh Peters was mounted on a Steed, and followed after; it chanced a sudden shower of rain to fall, whereupon Oliver being unwilling his

Poor Robin's Jests: or,
Chaplain should be wet, sent him his Coat
to keep him dry: which *Hugbkin* modestly
refused, returning this answer to the Mes-
senger, *that he would not be in his Coat for a*
thousand pound.

Pride and Hewson.

P*ride and Hewson*, two of *Cromwells* pa-
geant Lords, the one formerly a Dray-
man, the other a Cobler; these two meet-
ing together, *Pride* told *Hewson* he saw a
piece of Coblers wax sticking upon his Scar-
let Cloak; No matter for that, (said *Hew-*
son) a handful of Brewers grains will wipe
it off well enough.

The Parson and the good Wife.

A Parson preaching a Sermon on a
Good-Friday, said, Now which of
you all in honour of this good day, will
not forgive his enemy with all his heart?
A woman hearing him say so, stepped forth and
said; *Sir I do?* Whom, said the Parson?
Marry (quoth she) *whosoever will do so much*
as kill the knave my Husband.

The

The Parson and Church-Warden.

A Parson riding into the North of *Eng-land*, it was his chance to stay at a small Village on a Sunday, where they had no Minister at that time; whereupon he offer'd to bestow a Sermon on them; which the Church-Warden being informed of, went to him, and asked him if he were Licensed to preach; Yes said the Parson that I am, and there-withall drew out of a Box his License, asking the Church-Warden if he understood Latine? No (said he) I do not, yet however let me see it, perhaps I may pick here and there a word out of it. No quoth the Parson *I will have no words pickt out of it, for that is the way to spoile my License.*

Dr. Adams, and Dr. Low.

TWO Ministers, whereof the one was named Mr. *Adams*, the other Dr. *Low*, being to preach before a great Auditory, the Doctor chose for his Text this place of Scripture, *Adam, where art thou!* he having done, Master *Adams* stepped up, and took for his Text the following words, viz. *Low here am I.*

Dr. Heylin.

Dr. Heylin.

DR. Heylin the famous Cosmographer, being sent for to his Elder Brother by a Serving-man, who had a long time retained to that Family, as they journeyed along they lost themselves in a Wood: the Serving-man being quite at a loss, desired the Doctor to ride before; which he (for a good reason was) refusing, the man in a pelting chase, said, *I have heard my old Master after your Father say, that you writ a book of the whole World: now if you so well knew the World, me thinks you might easily find the way out of a Wood.*

Dr. Donne.

DR. Donne having privately married Sir George Moors daughter, whose name was Anne; falling into his Father-in-law's displeasure, he with a Diamond-ring wrote thus on the glass-window; *John Donne, Anne Donne, done and undone.*

Of Pope Adrian.

POPE Adrian the sixth being minded to throw Pasquins Image into Tyber, to take away the cause of Libelling, which was then used under the name of the Image

The Compleat Jester. 91

image, The Duke of Sesa said unto him,
If your Holiness throw Pasquin into Tyber, he
will then turn Frog, and croke both day and
night; whereas now he only crokes a day time.

The Pope and St. Peter.

It is said of a certain Pope, that when
he was dead he went to Heaven-
gates and knocked there. St. Peter de-
manding who he was, he said the last de-
ceased Pope: then said St. Peter, If you be
the Pope, why do you knock, since you
have the keys to come in at your pleasure?
to whom the Pope answer'd; that his Prede-
cessors indeed had the keys, but since that time
the wards were alterd.

The Spanish Bishop, and Shepherd.

A Spanish-Bishop seeing a Shepherd sun-
ning himself, said unto him, I wonder
that Shepherds now adays are not as they
were in time past, when great Prophets
and Kings refused not to keep Sheep, and
to them also the Angels told the birth of
our Saviour; to whom the Shepherd an-
swer'd, Neither are Bishops now adays as in old
time, at divers of whose deaths Bells are said to
ring of themselves, and now can scarcely be
made to ring with mens strength.

Bishop

Bishop Bonner.

Bishop Bonner being at the time of the Reformation degraded from his Bishoprick, one thinking to put a jest upon him, desired a piece of his tippet to heel-stall his hose: to whom Bonner answer'd, that his tippet was not fit for that purpose, but told him he had a foolish head of his own, which would serve very well to line his Hat. Another time riding abroad, one met him and said, good morrow Bishop *Quondam*; to whom Bonner replyed, *Adieu knave semper idem.*

The Spanish-Fryar.

A Spanish-Fryar had a Bishoprick in India granted unto him, but he desiring not to go out of his own Country, thus spake to the Kings Secretary: Sir, knowing that a Bishops place is a dangerous thing to undertake, and being conscious of my own insufficiency, I am in the mind that to take it upon me, is the high-way to Hell; and to go to Hell by India is a great way about, wherefore I pray assign me some nearer Sea, or none at all,

The Bishop and his Chaplain.

A Bishops Chaplain helping his Lord on with his Rotchet, it being the first time, and he not very perfect at it, he said unto him, My Lord, methinks your Sleeves are very strait : True (answer'd the Bishop) for I have been these twenty years in getting them on, and never till now could do it.

Reason for this.

A Nother said that the chief reason why the Anabaptists would have had the bells down out of the Churches, was, because of the Ropes, being conscious to themselves what they had deserved.

A useless Library.

A Scholar having a great Library, and seldome or never coming at it to Study, one said unto him, It seems (Sir) that you and your books are at a truce.

Peter Martyr.

Peter Martyr Chronicler to the King of Spain, having a long time sued for a Bishoprick, and hearing at last that four Confessors were made Bishops at once, said, Faith amongst so many Confessors, one Martyr would have done very well. *The*

The Bishop and Student.

A Young Student in *Spain* for some misdemeanors he had committed, was summoned before a Bishop who had a very reverend beard : who after several Reasons and Arguments in his defence, at last pleaded Conscience. What, you talk of Conscience (saies the Bishop) and have never beard yet? I cry you mercy, quoth the Student then, for I perceive if Conscience go beards, your Lordship hath got a very large one.

A Request answered.

One desired a Gentleman to speak to him to a certain Bishop, that his Lordship would be pleased to forgive him a Debt to whom he answer'd, his Graces power is to bind, and not to loose.

The Abbot, and the Messenger.

THere was a Bishop that sent six Capons to an Abbot, whereof the Messenger eat up one of them by the way. The Abbot having read the Bishops Letter and understanding that he had sent him six Capons, bid the Messenger thank his Lordship from him for five of them, and as for the sixth pray thank him thy self.

King Henry the eighth, and the Abbot.

HENRY the eighth being abroad on hunting, through the eager pursuit of his Game lost his attendants; at length he wandred to the Abby of *St. Albans*, where (unknown) he dined with the Abbot, and fell so stoutly on, that the Abbot taking notice thereof, said, he would give a hundred pound he had so good a stomach, for quoth he my stomach is so queasie, that I am ready to Surfeit with the pebble of a Larke, or the wing of a Partridge. The King remembring his words, the next day sent for him up by a couple of Pursevants, and without shewing any reason clapt him in the Tower, where he was fed for a Fortnight with onely bread and water: at last the King sent him a Rib of roast Beef, on which he fed so heartily, and made sodeep an impression, that the King stepping from his Coverture wherein he stood to see what the Abbot would do, demanded of him his hundred pounds; saying, *Since I have been your Physitian, and recovered your stomach, pay me my money; which the Abbot was forced for to do.*

Ans.

Another of King Henry the eighth, and the Abbot of Glasterbury.

THe same King Henry having a months mind to the Abbot of Glasterburies Estate, (who was one of the richest Abbots in England) sent for him to his Court, and told him that without he could resolve him three Questions, he should not escape with his life: The Abbot willing to get out of his clutches, promised his best endeavours. The Kings Questions were these: First, of *what compass the world was about*: Secondly, *how deep the Sea was*; and Thirdly, *what the King thought*. The Abbot desired some few days respite, which being granted, he returned home, but with intent never to see the King again, for he thought the questions impossible to be resolved; This his grief coming at last to the ears of his Cook, he undertook upon forfeiture of his life, to resolve those Riddles, and to free his Master from danger; The Abbot willingly consented. So the Cook got on the Abbots cloaths, and at the time appointed went to the Court, and being like the Abbot in Physiognomy, was taken by all the Courtiers to be the same man: when he came before the King (omitting other circumstances) he

thun

thus resolved his three questions; first of *what compass the world was about*; he said, It was but twenty four hours journey, and if a man went as fast as the Sun, he might easily go it in that space. The second, *How deep the Sea was?* he answered, Onely a stones cast, for throw a stone into the deepest place of it, and in time it will come to the bottom. To the third, Which I conceive, saith he, your Majesty thinks the most difficult to resolve, but indeed is the easiest, that is, *what your highness thinks*; I answer, that you think me to be the Abbot of *Glastenbury*, whenas indeed, *I am but Jack his Cook.*

King Henry the Eighth, and Will. Summers.

King Henry going once by water, took *Will. Summers* his Jester along with him for his divertisement. It happened the weather to prove very tempestuous, so that being in some danger, *Summers* said to him, *Harry, Harry, I had rather be thy Fool by Land, then thy Companion at Sea*: which made the King when he came on Land, to laugh heartily at his timorous disposition.

Another.

AT such time as King Henry was in opposition with the King of *France*, it
H hap-

happened that *Summers* was then in the French Court, in whom for his pleasant discourse that King was highly delighted; and going upon a time to the House of Office, to have the merryer Stool called *Summers* along with him, and said unto him, Look here *Summers*, how I value thy King, whose picture thou seest hanging here in my privy; I see it well, said *Summers*, and withall I observe, that you never look upon it, but at the sight thereof you are ready to bewray your Breeches.

King Henry the eighth and the Prior of Dunmow.

KING Henry going once to the Priory of *Dunmow*, he observed therein two Monkes which were reputed for very Holy-men: whereof the one was exceeding fat, the other extraordinary leane; and asking the Prior the reason thereof, he answer'd; If it please your Majesty, this Monke who is so exceeding fat, thinks onely of God and the joys of Heaven: and the other who is so extraordinary leane, meditates continually on Death, Dooms-day, and Hell.

King

King Henry the thirds base Son.

King Henry the third had a base Son named *Geoffery*, who in all his protestations used these words, *By the honour of the King my Father*; to whom *Walter Malpas* the Kings Confessor, said: *Metbinkes you might do well sometimes to remember your Mothers honesty, as well as so often to mention your Fathers Royalty.*

The Portugal Fryar.

A Portugal Fryar discoursing in his Sermon of a great victory his Nation had obtained against the Spaniards that day twelve-month, he said, *Then both Armies camped near unto the River, Wee Christians on the one side, and the Spaniards on the other.*

An Atheistical speech of a French-man.

A Younger Brother of a good Family in France, having committed a Robbery, was for the same convicted, and Sentence of death pronounced against him: at which he grew very much disquieted, and something outrageous in his discourse; Wherefore the Fryar who was appointed to be his Confessor, sought by Religious perswasions to comfort him, bidding him be of good

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cheere, for his next meals meat should be in Heaven; *Faith*, quoth the Thiefe, *I have small appetite at this time to any Heavenly food; therefore if you will take the dinner for mee, I will give you five pounds to discharge the shot.*

The Irish Lord and Tory.

AN Irish Lord named *Mac Mahowne* had taken one of the Tories Prisoner, and for some secret grudge he bare unto him, would by no entreaty spare his life, but commanded he should be hanged presently, and made a Fryar to shrive him; who examining him of his sins, asked him which was the heaviest, and did most burthen his Conscience; The Tory answer'd, that which he most repented of, was, that the last week when he had *Mac Mahowne* at his mercy in the Church, that he did not set fire to it, but out of pitty to save the Church let him escape; which he counted the worst Act that ever he did. The Fryar bid him to change his minde, and die in charity, or he would never go to Heaven; Nay, quoth the Tory I will never change my minde whatsoever becomes of my Soul. Whereupon the Fryar went to *Mac Mahowne*, and desired him to defer the fellows Execution till he were in a better minde, for if he died being



being so much out of charity, his Soule was sure to go to Hell: The Tory hearing the Fryar entreate thus for him, desired of *Mahowne*, that seeing he was so unprepared to die, and the Fryar so well disposed, and ready to goe to Heaven, that he would hang the Fryar, and let him tarry till another time. *Mahowne* hearing this mad answer, forgave him his offence, and pardon'd him that time.

The winking Parson.

A Parson in a certain Church in London, used commonly to pray with his eyes shut; one demanding the reason why he did so; it was answer'd, *Because he would be thought to know the way to Heaven so well, that he could find it blind-fold.*

Cardinal Wolsey and the Nobleman.

A Ruffling Nobleman in the time of King Henry the eighth came into the Court, with a Suit all bedawbed with Gold and Silver-lace, saying, Am not I a lusty man that can carry five hundred acres of land on my back? To whom Cardinal *Wolsey* said, You might better have employ'd some of it in paying your Debts; *'Tis true indeed,* quoth the Nobleman, *for the Lord my Father, ought the goodman your Father three*

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half pence for a calves-head, hold, there is two-
pence for it. Wolseys Father being a But-
cher.

The Welshman that fasted against his will.

A Welshman who was not much used to the Religious observation of fasting dayes, was entertained into a Gentlemans service; where according to the custome, he was made to fast the Eves of divers Saints; as Saint Peter, Saint Paul, Saint Bartholomew, &c. All which he grudgingly performed: at length came the Eve of all Saints, for which he was very willing to fast, as supposing no more would come after; but on Saint Andrews Eve it was told him he must fast again, which he utterly refused, saying he had fasted for all the Saints together, and therefore he would fast no more: but it was told him that he must fast for Saint Andrew also; Why then quoth he, pray tell mee, *where was Saint Andrew when all the Saints were together?*

A good Jest of a Welshman.

A Welsh shentleman who had one of his own country-men waiting on him, being at a Faire, and drawing out a Purse with store of Money in it, was espyed by a

Cut.

Cut-purse, who never left dogging him, till such time he had eas'd him of that burthen ; But his man espying him, drew out his knife, and cut off the Thiefs eare : who feeling it to smart, asked him what he meant by it : *No great harme friend*, said the Welshman, (showing him his ear in his hand) *onely give hur Master hur Purss, and hur will give hur hur ear again.*

Another.

A Young Cockney-Squire, who loved to eat of Partridge, would to have it the more reasonable (as he thought) keep a Hawk of his own, and to that purpose went to a shop where they were to be sold ; the Master of the shop perceiving him to have no great skill, sold him an Owl instead of a Hawk: which he having kept a day or two, the Owle began to cry, *Hoo, hoo, hoo, hoo* ; the Squire hearing her, said, I have got a good penny-worth, for I have a Hawk and a Hawkner too.

Dulman and the Lords Ape.

A Certain Knight kept a Dulman to his Clerk, and having some occasion to write to the Lord chiefe Justice, he sent this Clerk with the Letter : who coming to the

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chief Justice place, saw at the Gate an Ape sitting there in a coat made for him, as they use to apparel Apes for sport. The Clerk seeing one in such bravery, imagined it to be my Lord chief Justices Son, and therefore pulld off his Cap, and bowed very lowly unto it, saying, My Master commendeth him to my Lord your Father, and hath sent him here a Letter; The Ape took it, looked thereon, and afterward upon the man, making many mocks and mows, as the property of Apes is to do: whereupon Dulman because he understood him not, went back again to his Master, saying he had delivered the Letter to my Lord chief Justices Son, who sat at the Gate in a fair coat. His Master asked him what answer he gave him, he said he gave him an answer, but it was in French, or Latine, for he understood it not; but Sir, said he, you need not fear your business, for I saw by his looks that he would do your errand to my Lord his Father.

Welshmens prerogative.

ONe said that Welshmen are without compare on Saint *David's* day, because that none wears Leeks but they.

Of a Welshman.

A Welshman was for theft arraigned and convicted, but by the favour of the Bench had his book granted him: being burnt in the hand he was bid to say, *God save the King*: Nay, said he, God bless my Father and Mother, for had not they taught me to read, I might have been hanged.

Another.

THere was a Welshman who wanted both money and victuals, and being in this extremity, yet thought it better to steal then starve: wherefore spying a Bull with a cut taile in a Pasture, there being a Faire but six miles off, he made a vertue of necessity, and took the Bull along with him thither. It happened that the market was so slow, that the owner came before he had sold him; but he in the mean time mistrusting the worst, had procured another Beasts taile, and so fastned it to the Bull that it seemed to be his own; the owner walking by, and viewing the Bull well, said to a Neighbour of his, Had this Bull a cut taile I would swear it were mine; the Welshman overhearing him, said, Sir, will you swear this Bull is yours? Yea said the owner, I should have

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have sworn it if it had had a cut tail: I will try that presently, quoth the Welshman, and thereupon steps to the Bull, and with his knife cuts off his taile, just above the place where he had fastned the false one; and throwing it away, said, Now Sir, will you swear that it is your Bull? The man seeing the Bull bleed extremely, thought it was best to be gone, and so left the Welshman to sell the Bull as he pleased himself.

Another.

A Welshman having received some affront in Smithfield, made no more adoe but brake the fellows head who gave him that affront, for which he was taken and forced to pay ten Groats, (his whole estate:) being at liberty, and both hungry and thirsty, he went to a Cooks shop, and called for as much belly-Timber of each sort as came to five-Groats. The Cook himself, his house being empty, seeing his Guest alone, sat down to bear him company: in their discourse, the Welshman told him how he had lately been abused, and would know of him whether it were a just thing for a man to pay ten Groats for drawing of blood; Yes, quoth he, it is so according to law: then said the Welshman, *Here is five Groats to pay,*
break

I will breake my head, and give me the rest again;
and which was all the satisfaction the Cook
in his could have of him for his Viduals.

Of a Milk-woman.

A Milk-Woman in London, that had by
mixing water with her Milk gotten
the sum of an hundred Pounds, to encrease
it more, ventured the same in a voyage at
Sea, but by chance of Tempest the Ship was
cast away; which the woman hearing of, Then
farewell hundred Pound, (quoth she) lightly
come, lightly go; I got it by the water, and I lost
it by the water.

The impertinent babler.

ONe having made a long, tedious and idle
discourse, before a grave learned and
Reverend Person of this Realm, concluded
it thus; Sir, I doubt, I have been too te-
dious to you with my many words: In troth
(said the Gentleman) you have not been te-
dious to me, for I gave no heed to any thing
you said.

Daclor

Doctor Trigg and the wench.

A Young Wench who had taken a draught of the bottle, went with her water to Doctor Trigg, who told her the Baker had been too busie with her, and left a peny-loaf in her belly; No indeed Sir (said she) you are mistaken, *it was not he, it was my Fathers man.*

On spitting in the face.

A Country Farmer was very angry with a Gentleman for Hawking in his ground; whereupon the Gentleman spit in his face; the Farmer therewith more incensed, asked him the reason why he did so; Friend, said the Gentleman, you have no reason to be angry, because I gave you warning, *for I hawk'd before I spit.*

Another.

ONe by chance spit in another mans face, whereat as being sorry for his offence, he said, I cry you mercy Sir for spitting in your face, *but if you please to lie down, I will tread it out again with my foot.*

The Master and man.

UPon Saint Stevens day it is the custome of many people to let their horses blood; A Gentlemans man asking his Master if his horse should not bleed that day according to the fashon: No Sirrah (said he) *I would have you to know that my horse is not sick of the fashions.*

Whereabouts Cuckolds horns grow.

THree Gossips chatting over a pinte of Canary, one of them said, I wonder whereabouts Cuckolds horns do grow; one of them said in the forehead, another in the nape of the neck; and that may very well be, said the third, *for my Husbands bands are all worne out behind.*

On one named Sampson.

TWo or three Gentlemen were drinking together, whereof the one of them was named *Sampson*; being in discourse concerning the differences betwixt the English and the Dutch, one of them said, What need we to fear the Dutch, since here is *Sampson* able to conquer them all? true (said *Sampson*) that I may do, if you please to lend me one of your jaw-bones.

The

The Lord and his Steward.

A Passionate Lord called his Steward knave; to whom the Steward mildly replied, *Your honour may speak as you please, but I believe not a word that you say, for I know my self an honest man.*

On Claret.

Two Gentlemen coming into a Tavern, one of them called for quart of Claret: the other said to him, What, do you love Claret? for my part *ile see it burnt before ile drink a drop of it.*

A Witty clash of words.

A Gentleman invited some of his friends into his Cellar to taste of his Sack, but wanting a Cup, one of them proffer'd to lend him a *Can*: No (said another) we will not drink in a *Cain*, for then we shall not be *Abel* to get up again.

On Mr. Stone.

ONe Mr. Stone riding by a deep River, his Horse stumbled and cast him into it: a Companion of his that was riding along with him, seeing him swim to save his life, laughed heartily, and being asked his reason

The Compleat Jester.

III

on therefore, answer'd, *That it would make
any man laugh to see a Stone swim.*

On a Recorder of London.

ONe named *Peper* was brought before a Recorder of London, who mistaking his name, called him *Piper*; whereupon *Peper* being something offended told the Recorder of his mistake; Why, said the Recorder, what difference is there betwixt *Piper* in Latine, and *Peper* in English? Yea, said *Peper*, there is as much difference as there is between a *Pipe* and a Recorder.

On a foolish Book.

A Learned witty Dedication being placed before a dull foolish Book, a Gentleman said, he wondred how they came to be matched together; *In truth*, said another, *they may well be matched together, for I protest they are nothing akin.*

Of Gaming.

ONe advised his friend who was a great Gamester to give over play, affirming it to be a great sin and folly; to whom the other replied, that it was rather a special vertue and remedy against the seven deadly sins; for first (said he) how can that man be

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be proud, who having lost a hundred or two of pounds at dice with a Nobleman, will afterward be so humble as to venture his tetter with a Lacquey? Or second, how can he be covetous, that will not safe-guard his utmost penny from Play? Or in the third place, how lusty to women, that continually tires himself out at play? Or fourth, how a glutton, that dares not bestow a tetter on his belly, for fear he should need the same at Play? Or fifth, how envious of other mens goods, that is so careless of his own? Or sixth, how angry, that puts up a thousand curses from others, without returning ere a word? Or seventh, how slothfull, that sits up whole days and nights at play?

The wordless Song.

ONE was saying, that a Fidler who lived in such a place had a most rare Song with never a word in it; A Scholar hearing of it, went thither, desiring the Fidler to sing it, and he would take it in short-hand.

Of going to Bedlam.

A Country-Fellow coming to London, asked a Shop-keeper who stood at his door, which was the next way to goe to Bedlam: the Citizen told him the nearest way

way was to be mad : and that is the reason,
quoth the Fellow, *that you born-mad Citi-
zens can direct us in the way so perfectly.*

An Ignoramus.

QUeen Elizabeth minding to favour a
young Gentleman whose Father had
been in some disgrace, said unto him, I hope
you will now raise up your Fathers house
again, and make amends for his default.
The young Novice answer'd, An't like your
Majesty, one end of my Barn is sore decayed
indeed with the last winds, *but my Mother
bath promis'd to be at the charge of reparation.*

Every one to his Trade.

ARustical Husbandman challenged kin-
dred of an eminent Bishop of this
Land, requesting him to bestow an office up-
on him : Couzen (said the Bishop) *if your
Cart be broken, ile mend it ; if your Plough
be old, ile give you a new one, and seed to sowe
your land ; but an Husbandman I found you,
and a Husbandman ile leave you.*

I

King

King James and the Welshman.

King James riding late home from Theobalds to White-hall chanc'd to be catcht in a shower of rain, whereupon command was given to his retinue to ride faster: amongst the rest was a Welshman a retainer to the Earle of Pembroke, who being badly mounted, flutted and spurd with his legs to keep pace with them, and made such a bustle with belabouring his horse, that the King asked him who he was? *Ant please her Majesty (the Welshman replyed) her is as good a Gentleman as the best of them, but her Cattell cannot travel so fast.*

Of the French Kings Letter.

Francis King of France, in a Letter which he sent to the Emperours Ambassadour wrote thus, To the Ambassadour of Kings, and King of Ambassadours.

The Taylors man.

A Taylor sent his man to a Gentleman with a long bill for some little money due to him, who rather willing to cavil then to pay, in a great rage said: Why Sirrah, does your Master think I am running away, that he is so hasty to send for his money?

No

No Sir, said the Servant, my Master doth not imagine you to be about to run away, *but he himself is*, which makes him so earnest with you and others, to get money to carry along with him.

How Taylors came to be of the bloud-Royal.

WHen King Henry the fifth was Prince of *Wales*, he was a very dissolute Prince, and with a company of Roysters that belonged to him, would oftentimes Rob on the High way; and though for the most part they bore away the prize, yet oftentimes they met with stout opposition. It happend one time that they were so hardly matcht, that his party received many blows, and amongst the rest he had some cuts or slashes given him on a doublet he then wore, which for the rarity of it his Father took special notice of: therefore, that it might not be espyed, it was carried to a Taylors to mend: the Taylor having viewed it, and considering it could not be well mended without taking in pieces, threw it unto his Journey-man to un-rip, and he being poor and proud, Taylor-like, scorning such inferiour work as to un-rip, threw it to the under-prentice, who in flashing the seames, chanced to find a Lowse,

and thereupon cryed out, *I have found a Lowse in the Princes doublet*; his Master hearing of it, bid the boy give it to him, that by eating thereof he might become of the blood-royal : the Journey-man hearing him say so, claimed likewise a share, as being the person that should have mended it; so that there rose great contention betwixt them, which of them should have the Lowse : at last, to save the effusion of blood, both of them chusing rather to feed then to fight, it was agreed betwixt them to cut the Lowse in two, and either of them to eat half, by which meanes they might both become of the Royal-blood: the under-Prentice who had found the Lowse, thought it hard measure that he should have no share amongst them, but to live and die a poor Peasant : at last, casting his eyes aside on the Sheares, he espyed them all stained with the blood of the Lowse which had been shed in the dividing of her, wherefore licking the blood off with his tongue, he also became of the Royal-blood; so that by eating that which had sucked the blood of the Prince, Taylors have ever since been of the blood-Royal.

Of a Taylor.

A Taylor playing at cudgels, and having his legs well beaten, the company laughed heartily at him. Why laugh you Gentlemen? quoth the Taylor, *It is not my legs I stand upon when I get my living.*

Another of Taylors.

ONe commended Taylors much for their dexterity, saying, *they had their business at their fingers ends*; and I, said another, think them to be meer Woodcocks, *because they have both of them long bills.*

Another.

ONe said that a Taylors feet must needs stink, for when he was at his work they were always in his breech.

The Gentleman and Beggar.

A Beggar asked an Alms of a Gentleman, who gave him a Tester: the Beggar thanked him, and said he would pray to God heartily for him; but the Gentleman bid him pray for his self, and not for him, *for he did not use to take any Alms usury.*

Another.

A Gentleman walking over Lincolns-In-fields, was followed by a Beggar, and earnestly importuned with the Terms of *Good your Honour, pray your Worship, sweet Master bestow something on mee* : he to try this Beggars humour, said, that they used to call such as gave them nothing, Rogues and Rascals : no indeed, said the Beggar, not I, I scorn to do it : well said the Gentleman, *Ile try ye for this once* ; but the Beggar return'd him such a peale in his eares, that he was glad to mend his pace to get out of the hearing of it.

The Loving Wife.

A Kinde wife followed her Husband to the Gallows ; and being half-way, he desired her to trouble her self no further, but to go home ; to which she answer'd : *Yes, dear Husband, now I have seen you thus far on your way, faith ile see you hang'd too before I will leave ye.*

Of a Witch.

A Witch being condemned, and at the Stake to be burned, desired her Son to fetch her some drink, telling him she was exceed-

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exceeding dry: O mother, said he, it is well you are so, you will burn the better for that a great deal.

The unbelieving Cuckold.

A Fellow looking out at a window, espyed his wife and another man very closely at it in lascivious embraces; and hearing her tell the man how dearly she loved him above all the men in the world, the Cuckold said aloud unto him, *Believe her not friend, for she hath told me as much a thousand times, and a thousand at the end of that, and yet I have still found her false.*

The Judge and his Tenant.

A Judge who bare great sway in the Country where he lived, was about a sumptuous building; for the bringing in of which materials, divers Country-men were requested, with their carts and horses: amongst others, one that dwelt neer him went with his Cart and Horse. The Steward, as was the manner of the Country, had provided two Tables for their dinners, for those that came gratis special cheer, but for those that came for hire very ordinary. Being in the Hall, he in his Lords name invited them to sit down, telling them one

board was for them that came in love, the other for those who came for money. This Husbandman hearing how the business was orderd, sat down at neither; and being by the Steward asked why he did not place himself, the Hind replied, *he saw no Table provided for him, for he came neither for love nor money, but for very fear.*

Marrying a Scold worse then hanging.

A Duke being highly offended with his Slave, would have hanged him; but at last he bethought himself of a worser punishment, as he thought, saying, No, hanging is too mild a torment for him, I will Plague him worse, I'll marry him to a Scold.

The Fool best liked.

A Young youth having been to see a Play, was asked when he came out of the Play-house, which amongst those brave fellows he liked best; the Youth said he liked the Fool best, because he made most mirth, and could have wished with all his heart, that they had been all fools for his sake.

On disturbing the Players.

AT such time as the Rump began to bear sway, the Players were soon disturbed by the Souldiers, and had the thanks of the House for this their service, being not willing that any should play the fool but themselves. Amongst others, Alderman *A.* moved in the House that the Souldiers might have the Players Cloaths for their pains: to which motion *Harry Martin* stood up, and told the Speaker that he liked the Gentlemans motion very well, but feared that they would fall out for the fools Coat.

Of Harry Martin.

THis *Harry Martin* being condemned for the execrable murther of the King, was after sentence brought before the House of Lords, to shew cause why he should not suffer the Execution of that sentence; to which he returned answer, That he came in upon the Kings Proclamation, and well hoped, that he should not suffer for that which he obeyed, having never observed any of the Kings, nor his Predecessors Proclamations before.

A sharp nip.

A Young Gallant in company was up with a great deal of foolish and prophane talk; to whom a Gentlewoman said, How much is the world mistaken in you, that reports you to be an unthrift, when you are so good a Husband, that you will not spend your wit and words at once?

A watchful Mayor.

A Mayor of London dyed the same day that he was sworn; of whom one said merrily, *He was a very vigilant Mayor, that never slept all the time of his Mayoralty.*

Of speaking Latine.

TWO Gentlemen were talking Latine in the company of a Gentlewoman, who being suspicious that they spake of her, desired them to speak in English, that she might understand them, For I am perswaded, said she, you are talking no good, because I know when men speak Latine, if it be but two words, one of them is naught: whereupon one of them said presently, *Bona Mulier*: to which she said, I know *Bona* is good, but I'll warrant ye *Mulier* signifies something that is naught.

The

The riotous Gallant.

A Young Gallant new come to his means, rioted in a very high manner; his Mother blaming him for his unthriftiness, in a pelting chafe he said, Faith (Mother) taunt me so but once more, and for very spight I'll sell all the land and living I have. To whom his Mother answered, *If you sell it for six pence, you will be no looser by it, for it never cost you a groat.*

A witty Jest.

Two Gentlemens servants being drinking together chanced to fall out; and at last, amongst other discourse, fell to vying the Nobleness of their Masters; one of them saying, My Master spends more in Mustard then yours does in Beef. To whom the other replied, *The more sawcy men his followers.*

A sharp retort.

AN ancient Knight of a Noble Family meeting with other Justices upon a Commission, one upstart Justice, the son of an Husbandman, espy'd the Knights Sattin doublet out at the Elbows, and said unto him, Fie, Sir, what mean you to wear such a torn doublet? Go to firrah (said the

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the Knight) you came so lately out of sack,
cloath, that you know not what Sattin means.

The Lawyer and his man.

A Lawyer riding into the Country, had on a man attending on him, who had been about his servant neer a dozen years: Sir, said he, I have been with you thus long, and yet am very ignorant in the chief matters of your Profession, I pray resolve me which is the chief point of the Law. To whom his Master said, If you will pay for our supper to night, I will tell it you: to which the servant willingly yeilded. Well then, said his Master, *good witness is the chief point.* So at night when they came to their Inne, his Master was very liberal in calling for Wine, good Cheer and Tobacco, insomuch that the Reckoning at last amounted to thirty shillings; which the Master told the man, he was to pay: Not I, says his man. Wherefore? why, did not you promise to do it, said the Lawyer, if I would tell you the chiefest point in the Law, which I did? His man replied, *Where's your witness?*

A fair woman, a Heavenly Creature.

A Gentleman riding by, where many Gentlewomen sat at a street-door; a Mastiff dog came running out, and flew upon him: the Gentleman turning him about, said to the Gentlewomen, *This Cur is Hell, and all you Heaven.*

The upstart Gentleman.

AN upstart Gentleman, who by his money had purchased a flourishing Coat of Arms, was mocking at the plain Coat of an Esquires, of an ancient house: to whom the Esquire returned this answer, *I wear the Coat which my great, great, great, great, Grandfather left me; but had I been to have bought one as you did, it should have been guarded after the newest fashion.*

Of a vain boaster.

A Talkative man, who took himself to be a grand Wit, was boasting that in what Company soever he came, he was the leader of the discourse, and that none durst speak in his presence, if he held his peace: No marvel, said one, for they are all struck dumb at the miracle of your silence.

ongst

Another.

A Nother fellow was boasting himself to be a great Wit, saying, he was judged to be all Wit : Is it possible, said one, that people do think you to be all Wit ? if it be so, then the Anagram of your name is *Wit*.
All.

A chaste Gentleman.

A Gentleman had been to see the Peak, and in his return at night in his Inn, a Wench stept into the Chamber, and proffer'd him her service all night : to whom the Gentleman answer'd, No, *he would not enter the Peak twice in twelve hours.*

Nothing without mony.

A Gentleman coming to Court in his Coach, as he was lighting out of it, asked a Page that retained to some person therein, what it was a Clock : Sir, said the youth, what will you give me then ? Why said the Gentleman, must you have mony given you to tell that ? Sir (quoth the lad) I would not have you mistake your self, *we Courtiers do nothing without mony.*

The Traveller and Cöbler.

A Conceited Traveller, having his shoes torn, went to a Coblers to have them mended, to whom he used these expressions, God save you Master mend-all, I have brought you here a pair of Cram-a-Crees, beseeching you of your benevolence to fix me on four preservatives against the cold evil of the Indies. The Cöbler thinking coyned Silver was better then such coyned Language, returned him this answer, Sir, your Eloquence passes my Intelligence; yet if you please, I will Cobble you on four pieces for six pence.

On Mr. Prat.

Some Thieves had stollen Sheep from one Mr. Prat, and killed them in a Wood; at their departure they had written these lines, and fixed them in a Paper to the body of a Tree.

Master Prat,
Your Sheep were very fat,
We thank you for that.

Out of eleven
We took but seven,
Pray thank us for that.

Amongst

*Poor Robin's Jest: or,
Amongst the Bryers and Tborns
We have left you the head and the horns
Pray thank us for that.*

*The wool with the skins
To buy your wife pins,
Pray thank us for that.*

Mr. Prat found the Verses, but could never after that hear of his Sheep.

On John Brown.

THere was a University-Capper in Oxford, named John Brown, who whilst he was ringing in one of the Belfries of the said City, the Clapper of the Bell fell upon his head, and almost kill'd him: an arch wag seeing this mischance, and conceiving it mortal, writ over the place where this mischance hapned, these lines:

*Here lies John Brown the University-Capper,
That liv'd by the Bell, and dy'd by the Clapper*

But John Brown afterwards recovering, and seeing the Verses, writ this underneath.

*John Brown is alive, and liveth in hope
To live by the Bell, when thou dy'st by the Rope.*

The Compleat Jester.

429

The Gentleman and Musitian.

A Musitian to bid a Gentleman good morrow, was singing under his window,

The fair wife prov'd a Shrew.

The Gentleman hearing him, rise out of his bed, and said, The fair wife you speak of, you must look somewhere else, but the Shrew is abed with me.

The graceless Son.

ONe was complaining that no man ever had such an unducifull Son as he had. Yes, said his Son, (with less grace then truth) *my Grandfather bad!*

The modest Captain.

A Captain going to visit a Knight, he before many Guests commended the Captain, for many wonderfull acts, which he did at the Siege of St. Quintins. The company much admiring thereat, the Captain answer'd, that what the Knight said was not wonderful, for the Armour he then wore was as thick as betwixt London and St. Quintins. Why, said the Knight, were you not there then? No indeed, said the Captain.

K

No

130 Poor Robin's Jest: or,
No matter, quoth the Knight, but if you had
been there, I am sure you would have done as
much as I said.

Fool-hardiness.

ONE having received a deep cut in the
head, in a Foolish fray, went to a
Chyrurgion to be dressed: who searching
to see if his brains were not perished, and
not easily finding them; said the wounded
man, Trouble not your self to search for my
brains, for if I had had any, I should not so
rashly have enter'd in so an unluckie a brawl.

Of Lent.

A Parish in the West-Country called *Lent*,
happened to be on fire; one passing by
and bemoaning the sadness of the accident,
asking what was the name of the Town;
and being answer'd *Lent*; *Lent*? quoth he,
I pray ye then in with Frydays and Satur-
days too, that the Fire may consume them
all together.

Dreams Fables.

ONE told King Henry the eighth that he
dreamed he would give him a bag of
Gold; but, said the King, you are no good
Christian if that you believe dreams to be
true.

Put always the Cart afore the Horse.

AN old man with a long white beard, being to take his Oath at a Tryal in Law, the Judge asked him how old he was; My Lord, said he, I am six and fourscore: And why not fourscore and six? said the Judge: *Because quoth he I was six before I was fourscore.*

Of an old man.

AN old man complained that he had but one tooth left in his head, which was fallen out lately with eating of a ripe Figg: to whom one said, *But your tooth was more ripe.*

A quick answer, to a vain Boaster.

ONe boasted that there was not any one of his name in all England, and yet he himself was a Gentleman: to whom said one, I am sorry Sir you have such a name; *that there is not one good of it.*

Great bribes, do great matters.

A Controversie in Law was at last referr'd to a Gentleman to decide, and both Parties bound to stand to his award; the Plaintiff, to win him to his side, presented him with a new Coach: and the Defendant to gaine his favour gave him four brave

K 2

Horses:

132 Poor Robin's Jests: or,

Horses. The Gentleman liking the Horses better then the Coach, gave the verdict on the Defendants side: whereupon the Plaintiffe asked him how it came to pass the Coach went out of the right way: the Gentleman answer'd, he could not help it, *for it was the Horses had drawn it so.*

Nothing like money.

A Poor man in a Rightfull cause had sued a rich man, so that at the last it came to a Tryal: the rich man knowing his cause bad, bribed the Judge with a dozen of Apostlespoons, which at the time of tryal almost turned the Scales on his side; the poor man perceiving how the matter went, down on his knees in the middle of the Court, and holding up his hands, said; *Now the Lord Jesus be on my side, or my cause is lost, for the twelve Apostles are against mee.*

The Serving-man and Mr. Jordan.

A Servingman being sent of an errand to one Mr. Jordan, to tell him that his Master would speak with him, meeting him by the way, with more hast then manners said thus to him: *Mr. Piss-pot, my Master must needs speak with you presently.* The Gentleman angry to be thus abused, said, *Sirrah*

Sirrah do not you know that my name is Jordan? Why (quoth the Serving-man) pray what difference is there betwixt a Piss-pot and a Jordan?

Of dying in Debt.

One that had often asked an old Debt, was still put off with words, that he would pay him ere it were long; which made him to say, I suppose at last you will die in my Debt; to which the other answer'd, *I have lived now this forty years, and am sure I never died in any ones Debt yet.*

Of telling a Lye.

One seeing his Friend looking out at a Prison-window, asked him why he came there: who answered, that it was for telling a Lye: at which the other marveling, he explained his meaning, saying, that owing such a one a sum of money, and not paying him at the time promised, he arrested me for the same, and put me in Prison, by which meanes I am here for telling a Lye.

Of a Calves head.

Some Gentlemen being set at dinner, where amongst other dishes was a Calves-head, one of them was very much commending it: and amongst other good

properties, for the clearness thereof; to which he was answered by one, that it was very clear indeed, yea so clear that he might see his own face therein.

The Country-fellow and Ship.

A Country-fellow new come to London that had never seen a Ship in his life, coming to Tower-wharfe, he there had the view of several; wondring what they should be, he asked one of the Ship-boys what that great thing was called in which he was; who told him it was a Ship. Then asked he him how old it was; who answer'd him, Two years old. Good Lord, said the Countryman, but two years old? what a great thing it will be by that time it comes to my age!

The Drunkards cause of spewing.

Some Gentlemen being a bowling, a drunken fellow was got into the Green, whose Stomach being over-charged, he fell a spewing before them all; for which one of the Gentlemen blaming him, Marry (said he) it would make any man spew to see how you bowle.

Of greedy eating.

A Fellow being sent of an errand to a Country-Gentlemans house, had Victuals set before him, on which he fell so greedily, as made the Gentleman to stand and admire at his teeth and stomach-exploits; and therefore in a kinde of Ironical speech he spake to him, and bid him to eat heartily. I thank you, Sir, said the fellow, so I do, I think I eat like a man. Nay, quoth the Gentleman, that thou dost not, for I never saw a man to eat so before, I think thou dost rather eat like a Beast.

Woodcock and Swallow.

TWO Gentlemen were bowling together, whereof the one was named *Woodcock*, the other *Swallow*. Mr. *Swallow* having thrown a good cast, was boasting thereof: to whom the other said, *It is not one Swallow that makes a Summer*. No, said *Swallow* to him again, *neither is it one Woodcock that makes a winter*.

The Gentleman and Mare.

A Glownish Gentleman had so far prevailed upon the affections of a Gentlemans Daughter, that the Marriage was agreed upon; but he besides the Portion promised, would have into the Bargain a goodly Mare which was grazing in a Pasture before the house; and so high he stood thereon, that upon the refusal thereof he told the Gentleman; that if he had not the Mare, he would have none of his Daughter; upon which the Marriage was quite broken off. About a twelve-month after, this penurious wooer chanced to meet the Gentlewoman at a Market, and would needs have renewed old acquaintance with her: but she pretending ignorance, told him that she did not know him. No, said he, do not you know me? why I was once a Suiter to you. O cry you mercy, said she, I think there was once such a Gentleman a suiter to my Fathers Mare, but I assure you never any such a one a suiter to me.

Of picking a bone.

SOME variance happening betwixt a Gentleman and his Wife, she refused to sit down to dinner with him: whereupon to affront her, having eaten the meat off of a bone, he sent it to her by a Servant, bidding him to tell her, that *there was a bone for her to pick*: to requite this frump, she sent him word back again by the same Servant, that she had three Children since they were married together, whereof one of them was none of his; and bid him to tell him, *that that was a bone for him to pick*,

The Gentleman and Butcher.

A Company being at Bowls, of which was a Butcher and a Fantastical gallant, in their play they chanced to fall out, so that the Gallant up with a Bowl, and struck the Butcher such a blow on his head, as laid him shaking of his heels: whereupon one of the standers by said, I have seen many a Butcher knock down a Calf, but I never before saw a Calf knock down a Butcher.

The

The Master and Maid.

A Master was once had before a Justice of the Peace for getting his Maid with Childe; the Master pleaded that his Maid came into the bed to him: Why then, said the Justice, you should have gone out of the Bed from her. *Tea* (said the Master) *would you have done so, if a handsome Maid had come to Bed to you? no I'll warrant ye.*

Another.

A Nother Maid (who lay at her Masters Beds feet) was by him gotten with Childe; whereupon her Mistriss rated her soundly: the Wench to excuse her self, said, That her Master would do it: But then (quoth the Mistriss) you should have cryed out. Why (replied the Wench) *I have often heard my Master and you about the same business, and I never heard you for to cry out.*

An illiterate Church-warden.

O Ne of great wealth, but no learning at all, was by the Vestry chosen Church-warden of the Parish; he to excuse himself as being an illiterate man, desired them they would excuse him therein, For (said he)

he) that Office requires a learned man, when I protest that I can write nor read no more then the Pope of Rome,

Of Mastery twixt man and wife.

A Man and his wife were striving for mastery; or as we say, who should wear the Breeches; when in the interim one knocks at the door, which occasioned a cessation of blows for a time: whilst the goodman steps to the door, and asks the party who he would speak withal? who told him, The Master of the house: Stay friend, said the goodman, but a little while, and I shall resolve thee, for as yet the case is doubtful; and so stepping in, his wife and he went to it again, till at last she yeilded him the Victory; which being obtained, he goes again to the door, Now friend, said he, thou must speak with me, but I could not tell thee so much before, till my wife and I had decided the controversy.

A Bull.

A Tradesman having accidentally struck his wife a blow, whereof she dyed; one being told of it, said, That being he did not do it willingly, the killing of that woman would be found but Manslaughter.

A tale of a pack of Cards.

A Precise Gentleman kept a Servant that was a great player at Cards, who was complained thereof to his Master by one of his fellow-Servants. The Gentleman, who would not endure such wickedness as he thought to reign in his Family, had his man in examination, charging him very deeply for a great Gamester: Sir, said the Servant, I am so far from being a player at Cards, that I know not what a pair of Cards means. No, said the Gentleman to the tell-tale, did not you say he was a great player at Cards? Yes and please your Worship, quoth he, he is so, and so addicted to them, that he seldom goes without a pair in his pocket. Upon these words the Gentleman commanded his pockets to be searched, wherein was a pair found indeed. What is this? said the Gentleman, did not you say you knew not Cards? then pray what things are these? O that, quoth the man, is my Almanack, which I carry continually about with me. Pray, said the Gentleman, make it appear how these Cards can be an Almanack. Why thus Sir, said the man, there are in these things you call Cards, as many suits as there are

Quarter

cy! for Heavens sake! It is I, It is I, our distressed Sister, and unfortunate Journey-man Richard, who innocently sporting together, have most unhappily Twined our selves in this manner; out of which it is impossible for us to get free, without some Assistance from your helping hand: Therefore, I beseech you as a tender Brother, have some Compassion for your miserable Sister, and her unhappy Companion, in the Condition we are now in, and our utmost Endeavours shall be, for the future, to retaliate your kindness in the highest manner we shall be ever capable of performing, (the Fellow groaning and sighing all the while, not speaking one Word for himself, but expecting to be sent immediately into another World, for the affront put upon his Master, in being so over familiar with his Sister) her Brother starting to hear his Sister's Voice, fancy'd himself to be in a Dream; by reason of some Familiarity that had passed between them, at other times; but her repeated Importunities and crying out, soon convinc'd him of the reality of what he before had but barely imagin'd. And considering withal, what an Odium their Family would undergo, first turn'd his Sister upon the Man, resolving to pin them both to the Ground with his Spit, and was just ready to pierce it through their Bodies, had not another of the Family, who perceived now the worst of the danger, fortunately stopping his hand: prevented the fatal stroke, and interceded for their Pardon. The Brother at first could not easily be appeased, but his Passion abating, and considering the best way would be, to keep it as private as they could from the Ears of their Neighbours, he promised to unloose them: but with this proviso, That they should tye themselves faster together by a Matrimonial Conjunction, and by that means prevent the Scandal which unavoidably would be brought upon their Family.

To

To this they very joyfully consented, and lovingly Kissing on the Ground, swore Constancy and Fidelity to each other, and in a few days after, were marry'd and liv'd very happily together.

425.

A Constable carry'd a big belly'd Woman before a Justice, and said; An't please your Worship, I have brought you here a Maid with Child. The Wench call'd him Fool and Kuave; she being reproved, said, he must needs be one of 'em, for said she, If I am a Maid, he is a Fool to think I am with Child, and if I am not with Child, he is a Kuave for saying I am.

426.

A Person looking upon some Pictures, which hung up against a Wall, and among the rest there Was the Picture of King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba, an old Woman coming by, nestles up close to him; Pray Sir, says she, what pretty Picture is that? Whereupon the Gentleman resolved her, but she pretended Deafness two or three times, desir'd him to speak a little louder, and the fourth time she got his Watch out of his Pocket, and dropping him a low Courte'sie, told him she was very well satisfied.

427.

A debauched Fellow was brought before a Justice of the Peace for Swearing, the Justice commanded him to pay his Fine, which was two Shillings, for two Oaths, whereupon he pulls out half a Crown, and ask'd the Justice the Price of a Curse, who told him Sixpence: Then a Pox take you all for Knaves and Fools, and there's half a Crown for you, who the Devil would stand changing of Money.

428.

A Miser having a Sheep stole from him by a poor Man, would needs send him to Prison, saying, There was not such a damn'd Rogue in all the World: Pray Sir, says he remember your self, and judge not me

429.

A wife Mayor with his discreet Wife, went to see the Queen's Ape, as she came in the Ape catch'd his Wife, and made Mouths at her, but the Mayor told the Ape *He was an unmannerly Gentleman, to mock an ancient Woman as his Wife was and old enough to be his Mother.*

430.

One When the Hangman went to put the Halter about his Neck, desired him not to bring the Rope too near his Throat: For, says he, *I am so ticklish about that Place, that I shall hurt my self, with over-laughing, that it will go near to brot-*
me.

431

One was stop'd, by the Constable, he ask'd him what was his Name? He told him *Adultery.* Then Sir I'll commit you; Sir, says he, *If you do, your Wife will be angry, for committing Adultery upon your Watch.*

432.

The Watch passing by, out of a Window one threw a Piss-pot upon their Heads; they being angry, he asked who they were? They reply'd *the Watch.* Why then, *Harm watch, harm catch.*

433.

One came to the Tower-gate, just as it was shut, and the Wardens going in with the Keys, Ho, allow, says he, open the Gates: None of your Allow but a poor Knave; why then poor Knave. Nay, no Knave neither Sir; Why then says he, *was a Knave that told me so.*

434.

A Horse Dealer was brought to be examin'd before the Justice, who finding the Felony apparent, well, Sirrah, says he, If thou art not hang'd for this, I'll be hang'd for you! *I humbly thank your worship, (replyed the Thief,) and when the time comes, I desire you not to be out of the way.*

435.

A Welsh man arraigned and convicted, by Favour
of

of the Bench, had his Clergy granted him, and when he was burnt in the Hand, they bid him say Cot save the King: Nay, says the *Weiss-Man* Cot bless her good Father and Mother, for they had not brought her up to Read and Write, her might have been Hang'd for all her King.

436

A simple Fellow being arraigned at the Bar, the Judge was so favourable to him as to give him his Clergy, and they bid him Read: Read Truly my Lord, says he, I can Read no more than the Pope of Rome.

437.

Another Fellow had the Favour of his Clergy also, and being illiterate, a Scholar stood behind him to instruct him, and the Words were *Lord have mercy upon us*; so the fellow held the Book, and the Scholar bid him say after him, O Lord, says the Scholar, O Lord, says the Fellow, and his Thumb being upon the other part of it, the Scholar said, Take away thy Thumb. Then says the Fellow, O Lord, take away thy Thumb. Then says the Judge, *Legis aut non Clerice?* *Non Legis*, says he, Then the Judge said, Take him away Goaler.

438

A new married Man being in bed with his Wife, and thinking her a Virgin told her he was afraid he should hurt her, and therefore would rise and fetch an Instrument to order affairs an easier Way; but she speaking simply, and to ease him, said, Good Husband don't trouble your self for my Father's Journey-man hath saved you the Labour a Twelve Month ago.

439

A Man and his Wife being in Bed together, toward Morning pretended some uneasiness and desired to Lye in her Husbands Place, so the Good Man being Willing to please Her, came to Her, making some short stay in his Passage:

had not lain long there, but she desir'd him to change places, and ask'd him to come over her again : Nay, nay, says he, stay there, I had rather go a mile about first.

444.

A Citizen more tender of his Wife than himself, us'd to make her go to bed first in the Winter-time, and lye in his place to warm it, and then call'd her his Warming paa, which she not well relishing, went according to her usual custom to warm his bed, and left something smoking in the place : He suddenly leap'd into it, and finding himself in a stinking pickle, Wife, says he, I'm besmir'd : No, Husband, says she, it is but a Coal dropt out of your warming-pan.

445.

A Country fellow came to a Turner's Shop to buy a Mat; many were shew'd him, but he lik'd none : Then to jeer the Bompkin he call'd his Wife and Daughter *Mat*, and told him, there was all the Mats he bid : No, says he, they will not do, for I must have one that has not been lain upon.

446.

A Man having married an old Woman, he told her, he had let something wherein he should be a great loser : with that she let a lusty Fast ; O now, says he, I must confess you have made me a great Saviour.

447.

One hearing of the Story of *St. George* that kill'd the Dragon, said sure 'twas a Lye, nay some believe, there was never a *St. George* nor a Dragon. I, says a simple fellow, Pray God there be a Maid.

448.

Some Gentlemen being a drinking, a Wench came up to attend them : she being not enough, in anger they knock'd for more, the Master coming up, ask'd what they call'd for : Said they, must we be thus attended ? Have you no more whores in

146 *The Universal Jester: Or,*
the House but this? Yes, Sir, pray be patient,
I'll send up my own Wife immediately.

449.

Two Widows sitting by the fire, were chatting
together of their dead Husbands, says one, let us
have another Candle, for my poor Husband lov'd
Light, God send him Light everlasting; and says
the other, my Husband lov'd a good Fire, I wish
him Fire everlasting.

450.

Sir Thomas Moor had many Daughters but no
Sons, so that his Wife did often wish for a boy,
which at last she had, which was very simple; An
Wife says he, thou hast often wish'd for a Boy,
and this will be a Boy so long as he lives.

451.

A Maid that had more Beauty than wit, stood
viewing herself naked in a glass, at last she sets the
Glass a pretty distance off from her, so that screw-
ing her Body, she saw the reflection of something
in the Glass; whereupon she said, well, 'tis no
matter, tho' the shadow be Wry-Mouth'd, yet the
Substance is as right as my Leg.

452.

A Country man told his Wife, 'twas her Fault
his Daughter play'd the Whore, for she should
have lock'd her up: Lock me no Locks says she,
for the Devil take that Key that can't unlock it.

453.

A Fellow wooing a Wench, she sat so long be-
tween his Legs that he fell fast asleep: She rose
up and put the Churn between his Legs, he wak-
ing, hug'd it and said, Well, and how dye now?
Thinking the Wench had been there.

454.

A Gentleman had o'tsolicited his Wife's Maid
for a little of that which Harry gave Doll, but she
deny'd it still, saying, he'd hurt her, and then she
should cry out; after all was done, Look ye now
says he, did I hurt you? Well, says she, or did I
cry out then?

455

456.

A Wench was got with Child, and her Mistress would know who got it, she said, no Body; says her Mistress, you Whore, do you think any Woman can be with-Child without a man? Why, says she, may not I have a Child without a Man, as well as a Hen lays Eggs without a Cock.

457.

A married man having got a Wench with Child, was told by the Justice, that he thought such a man as he, would not have defil'd his Bed so: You mistake, Sir, says he, there was no defiling of the bed in the case, for it was done in the Field.

458.

Another was accused for getting his Maid with Child, and that he went into the Maid's Bed to do it. He to excuse it, swore, he never went into his Maid's Bed, for the Bed was his own.

459.

One ask'd his Trading Wife, what was the reason he must have his Life burden'd so by her ill Courses? Pray Husband, says she, let not that trouble you, for you know that I bear more Burden than you every day, and yet I am contented.

460.

A virtuous Lady being once in a musing vein, sat with her Legs Pretty wide; says her Husband, Sweet heart, your Cabinet stands open; say you so, says she, why do not you lock it then? For I am sure, none keeps the Key but your self.

461.

A Gallant espying a handsome Maid, says to her, Sweet heart, give me leave to kiss your Hands and Feet: O lack, Sir, says she, you are in extreams to aim both high and low at once, for I have often heard there's vertue in the middle, and there you may kiss, if you won't you may let it alone.

462.

A Lawyer would not only content himself with a sufficient Dose of the Juice of the Grape, but af-

ter he came home, (which was generally late, and when his Wife was a bed) would slip into Bed in the dark to his Maid, and steal the forbidden pleasures of Adultery. This he continued to do often, using when he rose from her to go to his Wife's Bed, to give her half a Crown. At length, his Wife finding it out, watch'd his coming home one Night, and privately order'd the Maid a Lodging up one pair of Stairs higher, and went her self into the Maid's Bed: When her Husband came home as usual, without a Light, he goes softly to the Bed, and there without any words, falls to work very hard with his Wife, and when he had done, gives her half a Crown, and rises to go down Stairs to cool himself, before he went to his wife: In the mean time she rises and goes to her own bed, and falls fast a sleep. But in the morning before her Husband was up, she calls the Wench, pays her her Wages, and bids her be gone. The Husband hearing a noise below, rises, and comes down, just as the Wench was going out of Doors, and asking what was the matter? Was answer'd by his Wife without any reason, that she had pay'd her off and she was going away. But she had not gone out of Sight, before the Mistress call'd after her, and said, 'Ah Lack-a-day! Hussy, I'd like t'ave forgot the Half-Crown I earn'd for you last Night, but here it is; and so gave it her before her Husband, who, you may imagine, guess'd then the meaning of her going away.

463.

A French man who having liv'd a single Life too long as he thought to his advantage, was resolv'd to marry a Wife to dress his Victuals, order his Household Affairs, and take care of other necessaries, &c. At last he pitches upon one, but she being a proud finiky Creature, car'd to do little or nothing: So that after he had been married a Month, and the Honey-moon was over, he desires she would dress the meat he had bought for

for Dinner: At which she munn'd, and look'd like the Devil over Lincoln, saying, Truly she expected to have a Maid to do that for her, for she was never bred up to such slavery: At which the contented Husband seem'd very well satisfy'd, and replyed, very well, my Dear. If dat you vil not do't par me, begar, me vil do't par you. So did it accordingly. The next day the Bed wanted to be made, and she would not do't, however he would do it for her: When Saturdy came, the House wanted to be clean'd, then she would not do it, but he was forc'd to do it himself. A little time after, he takes his Wife abroad in the Fields as usual, and sitting down pretty tyr'd under a hedge, Monsieur spies a pretty Crabstick; at which he drew his Knife, and desired his Wife to cut it for him, but she complain'd of being weary, and said she would not rise, not she; Ve', Madam, says he, I'll do it for ye; so rises, and cuts the stick and trims it fit for use; when coming to her, he, said, see my dear vat pretty Stick is dis; take it, do take it, and beat your self with it; No no crys she in a Passion, what d'ye think I'm a Foul, or mad? Well den says he, I'll do it for you, and so he belabour'd her to some purpose, that ever afterwards she became a good Wife, and was willing to do what ought to be done her self, without putting her Husband to the trouble of doing it for her.

13H

464

An Attorney's Man having got a Wench with Child, who being brought to Bed of a Son, he was puzl'd to contrive for its maintenance; But at last he found out a way, which was thus; He with four more of his Companions were at a Tavern, and an old Woman comes up, saying,

G 3

Will

will you buy any Ribbon, Gentlemen? Aye, says our Spark, and buys some, giving her half a crown to go down and change, instead of which, she left her Basket behind, wherein they found a Child, which they obliged themselves equally to maintain, and put to Nurse.

Can't Hunt

Can't Hunt
Hell